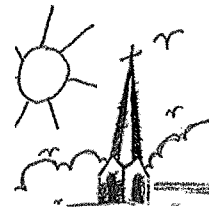


Immanuel Messenger

June 2026



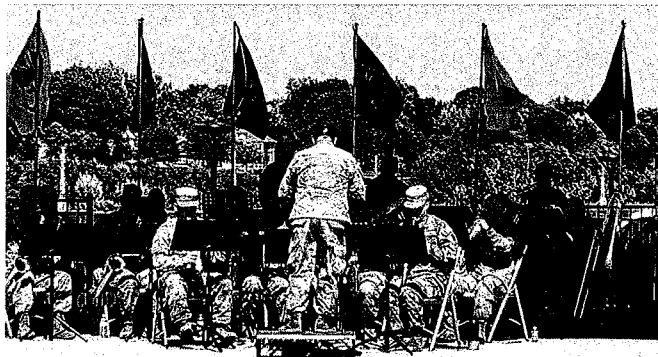
Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:

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

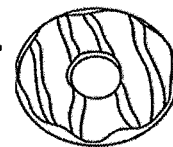


You are most welcome to the **Benefit for Callahan McCallister on Sunday, June 7th from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on the patio at BRINKS** (214 Locust St., Sterling). There will be a 50/50 Raffle, bake sale, silent auction items, live music

and more! Callahan is a beloved 4-year-old who was injured in an accident on Route 30 on May 9th and continues to be hospitalized receiving needed care. All proceeds support Callahan's care. Please come and support Callahan. **If you would like to make a gift to support Callahan and are unable to attend, you can hand off your gift to Lorrie Leopard, Brandy Leopard or Pam Shoffner.** Please keep Callahan and his loved ones in your prayers.



Join us for coffee and donuts in honor of dads and men of faith after worship on June 21st!



Through a generous donation from Culver's Immanuel will serve custard and welcome donations toward Sterling LSSI needs at the **June 14 Salute to America 250 Event at RB&W Park. Colors are posted at 1:30, National Anthem at 1:45 and 144th Army Concert Band plays at 2 p.m.** If you would like to assist in serving custard, please contact Deb Cervantes at 815-535-8242. Many thanks to Ashlee Alber and Culver's for providing the custard and to all who are serving!

At the NIS Congregational Resourcing Event in March, the speaker, Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson asked us to answer the question: "What difference does Jesus make in my life?" using 24 words or less. On May 6th & 10th I asked this of you all during the message. Below are some of the answers I have received so far that I have permission to share.

Unless there is a name after the quote it is anonymous.

- + "God is my anchor when life is uncomfortable or difficult."
- + "*Because of God, I am compelled to do my best at life.*"
- + "Jesus always loves, no matter what."
- + "*God forgives my sins and God loves me no matter what. God helps me to want to be a better loving person. Amen!!*"
- + "Jesus is my ROCK! God walks with me and talks with me, each and everyday, and loves me unconditionally!"
- + "*God provides the music that let's us dance and sing through every day. Slowly when we need it to be and faster as God moves us along the way.*"
- + "Jesus gives me hope for the coming day with joy and security."
- + "*I know I am never alone. Jesus has been with me and seen me through my darkest times. —Deb C.*
- + "Jesus helps me hold myself accountable for my actions. 'What would Jesus do?' Always gives me the easy answer to tough choices and decisions." -Scott Attig
- + "*I've been given TIME... Time to pray, give, love, share, travel and enjoy life. Life and memories with family and friends to cherish forever.*"
—Janice Attig
- + "The signs that Jesus offers freely and willingly throughout the day for guidance and support."
- + "I'm here. On May 19, 2016 I died on the operating table.... I was hospitalized for a month... in a coma for 3 days... had to learn how to walk again... I'm proud of being saved." —Shari Handel
- + "Baffling grace... humbling my hard judgement heart... freeing, bringing life" **What difference does Jesus make in your life?** —Pastor Bree

**"What
difference does
Jesus make
in your life?"**

Council Meeting Highlights from on May 21, 2026

1. President Nick Dirks reported that we have not received any bids yet for the front concrete work. If any are received soon, he will call a special council meeting to approve and expedite the project.
2. Deb Keaschall led council through an extensive review of the officers, council and committees portion of the by-laws. There remains further work on these items.
3. Request was passed to allow Treasurer Bill Wescott to establish new CDs when the current ones mature. Request from Treasurer Bill Wescott to review and approve the updated payroll agreements was approved.
4. The Council expressed deep appreciation for all who are serving through Sunday School and Faith Formation through cards. In addition, the Council celebrates with our graduates through cards.



Next meeting will be June 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ronda Borgmann, Council Secretary



Happy Father's Day on June 21st 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 & donuts in your honor following worship on June 21st!

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.**

Worship
with us
from
HOME



What a gift it is to share life together. We thank God for all of you, and for all who have birthdays in June! We specifically honor members who are 80 or older.

6/04 Carl Shank 6/05 Jim Meyer 6/20 Don Schmitt

Anniversaries of 50 years or more

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!

THANK YOU to everyone that brought individual fruit cups and applesauce for the *Let's Feed Our Children* summer lunch program. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. **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.** Thank you for supporting the **Noisy Offering** so generously **May 3 and 10** for **Let's Feed Our Children!!!** We collected \$186.01. Your generosity blesses youth in need! Thank you for ALL of the ways that you give and serve others! If you would like to make a special donation to United Way, you may do so 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 so much for the flowers, cards, kind words gifts and lunch. Thank you to everyone that came to LUXX for lunch. Thank you Pr. Bree for organizing and buying my lunch. I appreciate the support & appreciation I received on Administrative Professionals Day and every day. *Jill Leesman, Office Administrator*

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

Gerry Trieloff

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

Vera Stutzke

Citadel
105 E. 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Delores Kuhlemier

1011 6th Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071

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

Joyce Greenwalt

P.O. Box 144
Polo, IL 61064

Shirley Downey

Resthave Care
408 Maple Ave., Rm. 134
Morrison, IL 61270

Mike & Chris Wilen

1410 E. 15th Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Kathryn Rowzee

2002 Riverdale Road
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).**

If you have a prayer request for the congregational prayer list, please contact the Immanuel Church Office at 815-625-3575. **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 offering worship at two area care facilities. We lead worship on **Tuesday, June 9 at 9:30 a.m. at Morningside of Sterling (2705 Avenue E)** and **Sunday, June 14 at 3 p.m. at Parkway Center, (1801 Avenue G in Sterling)**. Many thanks to Nancy Strock and Virginia Schumaker who help make this possible. 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! Your prayers and fiscal support makes these opportunities possible!

Immense THANKS to all who donated Geraniums for Pentecost Worship!

In Loving Memory of:

Loved Ones

Hugo & Mabel Gerken, parents

Ed Downey

Myrtle Dewey

Harold & Helen Mattson

Greg, Dorothy & Leroy Leesman

Rick Moeller

Our Dad & Papa Rick Moeller

Marian Rhodes

Irvin Rosenow

Loved Ones

Norden & Mary Scanlan

Bessie Brown

Walter & Kathleen Smith

Norman & Marie Kerr

Ken Strock

Edwin "Bud" Stutzke

Dave Schumaker

Our Parents: Mabel & Leslie Gerlach

Francesca & Ventura Valdez

James A. Sikkema

Paul & Florence Simpson

In Honor of:

Our Kids & Grandkids

Given By:

Janice Attig

Tom & Betty Clementz

Shirley Downey

Sharon Handel

Denise Kramer & Harriet Bushman

Jill Leesman

Pauline Moeller

Shay, Natalie, Elise Sophia

& Ethan Moeller

Virgil Rhodes

Avis Rosenow & Kris Hill

Greg & Kris Sandrock

Nim & Sally Scanlan

Nim & Sally Scanlan

Clark & Barb Smith

Clark & Barb Smith

Nancy Strock

Vera Stutzke

Sally Schumaker, Brian Schumaker,

Lisa Armstrong & Families

Jan & Jaime Valdez

Jan & Jaime Valdez

Linda Wolber, Kellie & Jared Gardner,

DuWayne, Abby, Deyon, Darci, & Daniel Wolber

Linda Wolber, Kellie & Jared Gardner,

DuWayne, Abby, Deyon, Darci, & Daniel Wolber

Given By:

Jerry Adams



In Honor of:

Our Family
Our Graduates
Our Parents / Grandparents:
Noel, Nancy Gillette & Pauline Moeller
Our Children & Grandchildren

To the Glory of God for:

Our Children & Grandchildren
Our Children & Grandchildren
New Life Adventures!
Our Children & Grandchildren
Children & Grandchildren
Pastor Bree Truax & all you do!
Our Family & Friends

Given By:

Terry & Mary Andersen
Sid & Shirley Attig
Shay, Natalie, Elise, Sophia,
& Ethan Moeller
Lou & Deb Gonzalez

Given By:

Lou & Deb Gonzalez
Sherry & Mike Leaf
Marty & Kelly Schaefer
Jan & Jaime Valdez
Bill & Linda Wescott
Pastor Kathy Burkheimer
Shay, Natalie, Elise, Sophia,
& Ethan Moeller

Thank you to all who donated geraniums for Pentecost service!

The geraniums were planted on Immanuel church grounds.

THANKS to all who planted them, and are watering and dead heading them that they'd bloom all summer long!



**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 Thursdays in June. Please join us for BBT on Thursday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m. at River's Edge (2303 W. 1st Street, Dixon).**

You are also welcome to join us for BBT on Thursday, June 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Artisan Oven (3203 E. Lincolnway, Sterling). *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!**



MUSICIANS NEEDED



STUDENT MUSICIANS: This summer, MANY churches are again hosting student musicians from the Sterling/Rock Falls area. This includes any student completing 7th grade through college graduates. **We ask that students share a piece with Immanuel and then arrange to play that piece at another congregation, where you will be paid \$30 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!

Ronda Borgmann, Sue Dirks, Bill Wescott and Pastor Bree will be representing Immanuel at the 2026 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly in person June 12-13. Bill is on the Northern Illinois Synod Council but he will be voting as Immanuel’s representative. The theme for this year’s gathering is “Going Deeper” 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, Sue and Bill for their willingness to serve!

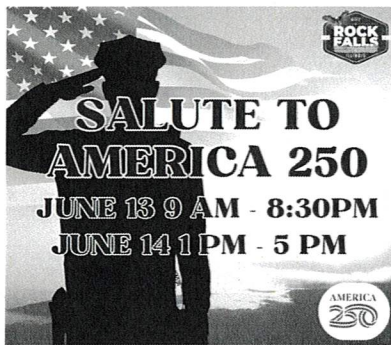


Thanks be to God for Teri & Kevin Arnold! Kevin & Teri, who are very active members, leaders and followers of Jesus moved to Davenport in May. We celebrated them with a special prayer on May 24. May God guide and bless Teri & Kevin! You can keep in touch with the Teri & Kevin Arnold at 11664 131st Street Court, Davenport IA 52804.

Relay For Life (RFL) is on Saturday, June 13th from 4 - 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 13th 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.



Salute to America 250 will be held **Saturday, June 13** from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at RB&W Riverfront Park in Rock Falls. This **free family friendly fun** is for all ages. Experience the sights and sounds of Civil War artillery with Taylors Battery – 1st Illinois Light Artillery Co. beginning at 9:30 am! Every hour, Taylors Battery will present an engaging program explaining their role during the Civil War. Watch as they demonstrate original artillery pieces, show how equipment was transported, and share the daily life of soldiers — all while dressed in authentic period uniforms. Families are welcome to take free photos and enjoy this hands-on living history experience. Activities throughout the day including food vendors. All are welcome! To check activities and times visit www.rockfallschamber.com

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 on **Saturday, June 20 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Grandon Civic Center** (304 Brinks Cr., Sterling). Join us for a family friendly event celebrating Juneteenth! This 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. Immanuel will staff a booth with giveaways and CommUNITY VBS info. Stop on by!



All are welcome at Bellson Music Fest! Enjoy an all-day celebration honoring legendary jazz drummer Louie Bellson on **Sat., June 6th starting at 11:30 a.m.** The festival features a special drum clinic led by Josh Duffee at the McCormick Event Center, plus live performances at the RB&W District Park from four grand bands: Josh Duffee & the Blackhawk Broadcasters, Crooked Cactus, John Resch & Doggin' Out, and Rare Element. It's a must-see free event for music lovers of all ages. For more information visit LouieBellson.com



ELCA

Save the date! 2027 National Youth Gathering will be June 28 - July 2 in Minneapolis, Minnesota! Youth (8th-12th grade) at the time of registration (fall of 2026) and Young Adult (18-35 yrs.) are eligible to attend the gathering.

**IMAGINE
more**

The theme is Imagine More. Check out the ELCA Youth Gathering web page for links to resources and social media channels. <https://www.elca.org/gathering>

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, Andrea Wright, Ashley Scanlan & Scott Attig* for helping with Sunday School and Faith Formation! Thanks also to all confirmation families for providing Tri Church Confirmation meals!

Special Thanks to all who have been tending to our grounds and facility! Many thanks to Lori & Scott Attig for their work removing the leaves prior to work day and to Nim Scanlan, Jerry Adams, Evelyn Scanlan, Pam Shoffner, Karen Goss, Nolan Scanlan and Marty Schaefer for all their hard work on cleanup day at Immanuel on May 2nd. Thanks also to ALL who have served at other times! All the ways you serve matter! As per always, our facility and grounds are the congregations and you are welcome to be a part of tending to it.

**THANKS
for serving!**

THANKS to all who planted and have been watering the geraniums! They look great!! **Immense thanks to Nim Scanlan** who continues to mow the church grounds! We thank and praise God for you and your generous service!



CommUNITY VBS invites you to this amazing, **FREE** 5-day event from **Sunday, July 12 to Thursday, July 16** at **Bethel Reformed Church (230 E 23rd St, Sterling, IL)**! We'll start with a free dinner for students and volunteers at **5:30 PM**, then we'll have music, crafts, science experiments, games, and Bible adventures from **6-8 PM!**



Rainforest Falls is for students age 4 to just finished 5th grade. Adults and older students are invited to volunteer!

After Rainforest Falls, join us **Sunday, July 19** at **9:30 AM** at **Grandon Civic Center** for a VBS Worship Service!

facebook.com/SterlingRFCommunityVBS

Women of the ELCA

WELCA TRI-CHURCH PRESENTS: COLOR ME JOYFUL
I AM BECAUSE GOD IS



I AM KIND
I AM SMART
I AM BRAVE
I AM CONFIDENT
I AM CAPABLE
I AM GRATEFUL
I AM LOVED
I AM ENOUGH



Tuesday, June 16, 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church

5:30PM - 7:30PM

Agenda

- Quick Meeting
- "Arthur's Garden Deli"
Supper
- Craft

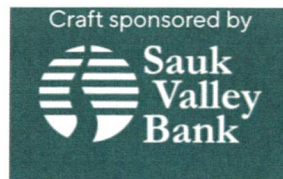
FREE WILL OFFERING WILL
BE COLLECTED TO HELP
COVER FOOD COSTS &
SUPPORT WELCA

Sign up in your Church Office by June 1, 2026

A special event for Women of the ELCA

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Falls
St. John's Lutheran Church, Sterling
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sterling

Please feel free to bring a friend.





WELCA Tri Church Groups

Active Groups:

Evening Gather Bible Study—Coordinator Karen Wolfe

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at St. John's from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

In June we'll be studying the May Bible Study

How to Attend: Bring your Bible and Gather Magazine. All are welcome!

Morning Gather Bible Study—Coordinator Ronda Borgmann

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Immanuel at 9:00 a.m.

How to Attend: Bring your Bible and Gather Magazine. All are welcome!

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief—Coordinators Deb O'Brien & Dawn Waite

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

How to Attend: No experience necessary. All are welcome!

Family Group Meeting (Name TBD)—Coordinator Gabby Law

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at St. Paul from 5:30-7 :00 p.m.

How to Attend: Bring a sack-style dinner. Drinks will be provided. Children are welcome for independent play time.

Church Ladies Eating Out (CLEO)—Coordinator Judy Bartel

Typically meets the 4th Monday of each month at different area restaurants.

June's location is TBD.

How to Attend: Please RSVP to July Bartel each month at 815.751.6768

Special Event: June 16th at St. Paul from 5:30 –7:30 p.m.

Color Me Joyful—I Am Because God Is

Please sign up at your Church by June 1, 2026

so we have enough food and supplies.

Please follow our Facebook page: WELCA Tri-Church.

Please bring a friend to a group.

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 Nick Dirks 815-441-4599 nickwdirks@gmail.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	Deb Cervantes 815-535-8242 deb dawnhend@comcast.net		
Faith Formation Ministry	Scott Attig 815-303-9642 attig80@yahoo.com	Alex Attig 815-303-3382 alexattig@gmail.com		
Service Ministry	Pam Shoffner 815-716-0190 mccrash2007@hotmail.com	<i>Please keep our Council Members and Pastor Bree in your prayers.</i>		
Support Ministry	Marty Schaefer 815-441-5129 mscha466@gmail.com	Scott Attig 815-303-9642 attig80@yahoo.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	Kelly Schaefer 815-441-7614 kellyschaefer66@gmail.com		

Thanks
for your participation

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 aluminum beverage cans by Immanuel and place them in the entryway. Money raised from these donations support Immanuel Lutheran Youth ministries.*

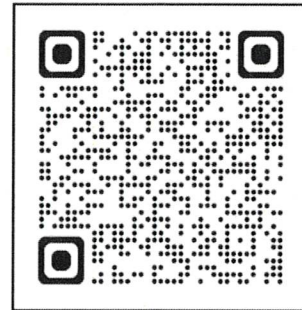


Pastor Bree is off and on vacation June 3 - 9. For emergency pastoral care, please call the Church Office at 815-625-3575 or Pastor Riley at 406-240-2145.

REMINDER

The 2026 Northern IL Synod Assembly is on June 12th with In-Kind donations benefitting LSSI this year. You can support by:

1. Donating \$25 giftcards (for your congregation representative to bring to the Synod Assembly) OR
2. By purchasing items from LSSI's online wish-list via the QR code or link listed.



GIFTLIST.LSSI.ORG

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. Thanks!

Moeller, Myers

**& ASSOCIATES PC
Counseling & Consulting**

3917 E. Lincolnway, Suite E
Sterling, IL 61081

815-626-8760

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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**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL--
PLEASE DO NOT HOLD.**

MINISTERS: MEMBERS OF IMMANUEL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Immanuel Office Phone: 815-625-3575

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. & Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

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

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