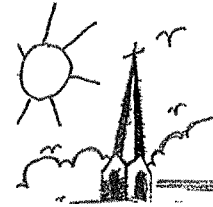


Immanuel Messenger

October 2026



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church Mission:

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

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

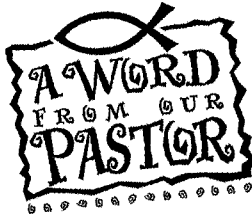
Thank you for continued support of the mission and ministry of Immanuel Ev.

Lutheran Church through your participation, prayers, service and giving! You make a difference! Your contributions and support are changing lives with God's love! Thank you!

Stewardship is a way of living, where we responsibly manage and give back our time, talents, and resources entrusted to us recognizing that all our gifts come from God and are not our own. We are caretakers for God's creations, and are to use these gifts for service and generosity towards Others, which reflects a deep sense of gratitude and love for God.

Stewardship is not always easy. Sometimes it calls for sacrifice, putting others before ourselves, and giving generously just as Jesus gave his life for all of us. **Thank you for all of the ways that you are serving and giving!** You will receive our fall stewardship information packet with a **FISCAL COMMITMENT CARD (FCC)**. Completing an FCC communicates to the Budget team your possible giving for 2027. **Our church budget is based on your responses.** As you are aware, household budget increases have occurred. Our Church will see budget increases as well. Give prayerful consideration, as your gift of time and resources directly impact the ministry possibilities for Immanuel.

Thank you in advance for giving your prayerful consideration to your 2027 Fiscal Commitment to Immanuel. Please return your fiscal Commitment Card to Immanuel by October 18. **Thanks be to God for you! Thank you for being an active part of the community of faith at Immanuel.**



Grace and peace of Christ to you all!!!
I am marveling that fall is upon us... The older I get, the faster time seems to go and yet, some days do seem longer than others. Perhaps

this resonates with your experience?
Regardless of the length of our days, God who is Creator does not faint or grow weary! What a comfort God's withness and strength can be! May all of us grow in our capacity to lean into God's withness and trust God's saving love through Christ!
Gratefully—Pastor Bree

**Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting
God, the Creator of the
ends of the earth.
God does not faint or grow
weary; God's understanding
is unsearchable.
Isaiah 40:28 (NRSVUE)**



Pet Blessing
Oct. 18 at 2 pm
outside at Immanuel

You are most welcome to join in an outdoor **Pet Blessing at Immanuel on Oct. 18 at 2 pm.** All pets must be on a leash or in a pet carrier. In addition, all are welcome to **bring their beloved stuffies or stuffed animals for a blessing during 9 a.m. worship on Oct 18** as well!

Throughout October we will be celebrating a Season of Creation; intentionally dwelling in the wonders of creation and our care of it. You can read more about this on page 6.



Stuffed Animal Blessing
Oct. 18 at 9 am Worship at Immanuel

**Council Meeting Highlights from Mtg.
on September 17, 2026**



1. Council voted to suspend all payments to the Twin Cities Homeless Shelter, which has closed and is undergoing restructuring.
2. Council heard an update on the front steps/sidewalk project which is proceeding well despite the recent rains.
3. Several changes/tweaks to the constitution/bylaws were reviewed and approved.
4. Treasurer Bill Wescott is in the process of working on Immanuel's 2027 spending plan. Each Ministry Team; each part of the Ministry Wheel is encouraged to submit their budget requests by the October meeting. Bill requested volunteers for two additional finance committee members.
5. Council approved a 2027 financial package for Pastor Bree including basic compensation, housing and health benefits.
6. Since Office Administrator Jill Leesman will be on vacation from October 28 through November 6, the office will be staffed by a volunteer while Jill is away. Council approved for the office to be open from 8 am to noon on October 30, November 2 and 6; and from 1 to 4 pm on October 29, November 3 and 5. The office will be closed on October 28 and November 4.
7. Next meeting has been re-scheduled to October 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ronda Borgmann, Council Secretary

*Worship
with us
from*
HOME

In support of our homebound members, Immanuel **offers phone in worship weekly** that is a recording of the Sunday prior. Worship launches at 5 p.m. each Thursday. **You can call into worship ANYTIME at 1-888-975-5536.** Thank you for worshipping with us! Immanuel's **in person worship**, is offered each **Sunday at 9 a.m. & Wednesday at 4 p.m.** We are church together!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

10/01 Sam Hyland

10/23 Rita Olin

10/26 Sharon Johnson

10/28 Cheryl Faber

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis & Virginia Schumaker 10/18/1970

Phil & Lynette Masini 10/19/1968



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.

Breaking Bread Together BBT

Please join us for BBT in October! Breaking Bread Together or 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 on Tuesday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m. at The Shed (134 S. Main St., Walnut). We will carpool from Immanuel at 11 a.m. All are welcome!

Tuesday, October 27, at 11:30 a.m. at Touch of Thai (102 W. 2nd St., Rock Falls). Come and share life with God and each other at BBT!

Menz Group will meet at **St. John's Lutheran Church** (703 3rd Ave., Sterling) **on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** A hearty welcome and invitation is extended! Please contact Gerald Foskitt at 815-499-6566 with questions.



MENZ GROUP

Grief SUPPORT Group

Immanuel is beginning a Grief Group. Our first gathering is on **Wednesday, October 28 at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room.** Whether you have suffered a recent or past loss, you are most welcome to join the conversation. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Pastor Bree at 360-989-4096.

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

Gerry Trieloff

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

Ruth Ann Metzen

Morningside of Sterling
2705 Avenue E, Rm 107
Sterling, IL 61081

Shirley Downey

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

Vera Stutzke

105 E. 23rd Street
Rm 205
Sterling, IL 61081

Virgil Rhodes

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

Joyce Greenwalt

P.O. Box 144
Polo, IL 61064

Delores Kuhlemier

1011 6th Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Deb Gonzalez

812 W. 5th Street
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Sue Dravis

25754 Front Street
Sterling, IL 61081

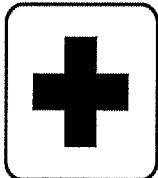
Dawn Knapp

514 N. Congress Ave.
Polo, IL 61064

Gail Renner

906 W. 6th Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Special THANKS to all who continue to remember others 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 monthly. We are leading worship **second Sunday** of each month at **3 p.m. at Parkway Center**, (1801 Avenue G in Sterling)—October 11. We also lead worship **the second Tuesday** of each month, at **9:30 a.m. at Morningside of Sterling** (2705 Avenue E)—October 13. Many thanks to Virginia and Nancy for their on-going leadership and service. Thank you for support of these worship opportunities! Your prayers and fiscal support makes these opportunities possible!

People of Immanuel,

Thank you so much for your recent donation to NAMI Sauk Area! You are always so good to us, and we truly appreciate your continued support of our mission and the work we're doing in our community. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and for having you in our corner. It means more than you know! Thank you again for always supporting us.



Warmly, Carly Wike & all of NAMI Sauk Area



Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for the cards, gift cards, money and food. It is greatly appreciated. God Bless you. —Dawn Knapp and family

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers, beautiful cards, and phone calls while I've been away. They have meant the world to me. I am so blessed to have a Church Family like you in my life.

With Love, Sheryl Wagner



At the 2026 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, a resolution was passed requesting that congregations celebrate a Season of Creation yearly. With this in mind, **we will be using a special liturgy throughout much of October!**

In addition, we will have a special Blessing of Stuffed Animals during worship on October 18 and a Pet Blessing outside at Immanuel on at 2 pm that day. You can read more about the blessings on page 2. We anticipate a wondrous month of growing to know God, our Creator,

more this month! We will continually discover how we are a part of God's good creation, called to tend carefully to all that God has made!



We are updating our church directory and would love to include a photo of everyone! Here are three ways we can obtain your photo:

- ♦ Someone can take a photo of your family and/or household members using a phone and submit it.
- ♦ We will be happy to take your photo after worship on October 11th & 18th, and from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14.
- ♦ If you have a printed photo you would like to use, bring/send it, we can scan it for the directory and return it to you.

Please send photos to **Kelly Schaefer** at kellyschaefer66@gmail.com, or 815-441-7614 or **Ronda Borgmann** at rondaborgmann@gmail.com or



815-622-8966. **The last date to submit a picture is Monday, Oct. 19th.** Thank you for helping us create a complete and up-to-date church directory!

October Tri Church Activities & Meetings

- 4 – Confirmation @ Immanuel, 11 am – 2 pm
- 5 – Menz Group @ St. John's, 6 pm
- 6 - WELCA Evening Gather Bible Study @ St. John's, 6 pm
- 7 – Confirmation Service Night @ Wesley United Methodist, 7 pm
(*Packing Buddy Bags; 2200 16th Ave., Sterling*)
- 20 – WELCA Morning Gather Bible Study @ Immanuel, 9 am
- 21 - WELCA Quilting for Lutheran World Relief @ St. Paul, 9 am
- 21 - WELCA Family Group Meeting @ St. Paul, 5:30-7 pm
- 26 – WELCA CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out), 5:30 pm
(*RSVP to Judy Bartel at 815-751-6768*)
- 26 – Tri Church Leadership Meeting @ St. Paul, 6 pm



Church Women United World Community Event is on Saturday, October 24 at 1:00 p.m. at Rock Falls Congregational Church (905 Dixon Ave.). The theme: Peace Begins With Me. For information, call Pr. Darlene Shoffner at 815-499-4414. All are welcome!



TriChurch

St. Paul · Immanuel · St. John's
The ELCA Lutheran Congregations of Sterling & Rock Falls
Partnering in Christ to serve our community and our congregations

Tri Church TEN: Our Story Unfolds

In each of the newsletters leading up to the January 17, 2027 joint worship and celebration at St. Paul, Tri Church is sharing some moments from our nearly 10-year history a few years at a time. This month we are looking at highlights from 2019 and 2020.

In February of 2019, Tri Church hosted the Nordic Choir of Luther College which included housing for 80 students at the Comfort Inn, a pre-concert meal and post-concert reception – all donated by Tri Church members! God's Work Our Hands followed in June with 40 participants helping at LOMC (Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center) with planting flowers and picnic table assembly and staining, plus collecting "wish list" items in advance such as towels, shower curtains, mops & buckets. What a year of sharing time, talents and resources for the glory of God!

With the COVID shutdown beginning in mid-March 2020 and our churches closed for Sunday worship. Tri Church responded with its first online worship on March 22, 2020. This intentional choice of serving God together through online worship allowed each congregation to offer weekly worship the very next Sunday after things shut down. It was wondrous how worship came together so quickly! This was an opportunity to for so many - pastors, musicians, readers, leaders and tech support – to collaboratively share their talents from a variety of locations. Thanks be to God!

While a major fundraising event in April 2020 to purchase a generator for Rock River Hospice & Home was derailed due to COVID, the generosity of the TC congregations and our local community prevailed! Cash donations, Thrivent Choice Dollars, an online silent auction and a matching gift totaled nearly \$28,000 allowing the purchase of the generator. Despite the challenges of COVID, Tri Church was guided and strengthened by its mission: "United in Jesus love, we learn, serve, and grow through faith and action."

Next month, highlights will be shared from the 2021 and 2022 years. And . . . save the date for January 17, 2027 at 9:15 am at St. Paul for the 10th Anniversary worship and brunch with Bishop Fidler!

Deb Keaschall, Tri Church Convener



WELCA Tri Church

Evening Gather Bible Study

Coordinator Karen Wolfe

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at St. John's - 6 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 6

No preparation needed – join us for learning and conversation!

Morning Gather Bible Study

Coordinator Ronda Borgmann

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Immanuel - 9 am

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 20

No preparation needed – join us for learning and conversation!

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Co-Coordination Deb O'Brien and Dawn Waite

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at St. Paul 9 am-12 pm

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 21

No experience necessary – join us for fun while we do this important work!

Family Group

Coordinator Gabby Law

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at St. Paul 5:30-7 pm

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 21

Adult bible study time w/ frozen pizzas for supper & a guided children's activity - join as you are able!

Church Ladies Eating Out (CLEO)

Coordinator Judy Bartel

Meets the last Monday of each month at different restaurants at 5:30 pm

Next meeting is Monday, October 26 – place to be determined

Please RSVP to Judy each month at 815-751-6768 if you can join!

Pre-K-1-2 and 3rd-6th Sunday School

September Schedule & Scoop

Immanuel's Sunday School opportunities are designed to actively engage faith in the lives of young people! We are so fortunate to have



Danyelle Robinson teaching our Pre-K-2 class with Lori Attig leading music and Antori Dirks filling in as needed. We are equally blessed to have Jennifer Morgan heading up our 3rd-6th grade class! We hope and pray that kids will come to know God, themselves and each other more throughout the year! **Sunday School begins on September 13th and meets each Sunday in September from 10:15 to 11 a.m.** 2nd-5th graders meet upstairs and the Pre-K-1 class met downstairs. Households have been emailed a Sunday School registration form and schedule. Additional copies are available on the counter under the bulletin board. **Come and grow in God with us!**



Young people: There will be an acolyte training on Sunday, October 4th during Faith Formation (10:15-11 a.m.). If you would like to serve as an acolyte you are welcome to do so! **Even if you have served as an acolyte in the past, please make every effort to participate in this training and refresher of acolyte service opportunities.** As you serve as an acolyte you help people worship God!

Our Noisy Offering the second Sunday and Wednesday of the month will support the purchase of gifts for the LSSI Holiday Hope Chest for children and families served by LSSI through their Holiday Hope Chest program. This program provides gifts for families! All donations for the October noisy offering will help bless families in need. Thank you for giving as you are able!



THANK YOU for giving to the Lord! You make a difference!

*On October 25th, confirmation students who have completed over two years of preparation will be Confirmed at our Affirmation of Baptism service! **THANKS BE TO GOD for Ethan Schumaker** who will be confirmed on October 25th at 9 a.m. In Affirming his Baptism, Ethan is saying YES to God's love, grace and presence in his life! He is continuing a life-long journey of faith! Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us in this celebration. A special coffee hour in his honor will follow. You are invited to jot Ethan a note of celebration and faithful encouragement in honor of their Confirmation.*

Affirmation of Baptism



Do you enjoy young people? YOU could head up our Sunday School Christmas Celebration worship by helping young people share the account of Christ's birth! If you are even remotely interested, please let someone on the Faith Formation Team know. We have lots of resources and volunteers available to support you in this endeavor. The Faith Formation leadership team includes: Jennifer Morgan, Lori Attig, Stacey Hackbarth, Shirley Attig & Antori Dirks.

Trick or Treat will be held at participating uptown Rock Falls businesses on Friday, October 30th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Free treats and kids activities.

Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church (1701 16th Ave., Sterling). All are welcome!

Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church (703 3rd Ave., Sterling). All are welcome!





Confirmation is a multi-year special time of intentional exploration of our faith through Bible Study, questions, service, worship and more! **This year, Confirmation is being offered through Tri Confirmation classes! Tri Church Confirmation classes are offered monthly on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

rotating to each of the churches. Each session will include a light lunch which the host church for that session provides. **The October schedule is below.** The dates with an * and in *italics* indicate a service or fellowship opportunity. PLEASE aim to participate as you are able. We do NOT expect you to participate in ALL the opportunities. Ideally, youth in confirmation will participate in the Quake AND as many service opportunities as scheduling allows. Friends are welcome! This schedule is subject to change.

2026-2027 Tri Church Confirmation Schedule for October & More

October 4, 2026; Class from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Immanuel

**October 7, 2026; 7 p.m. 6th-12th Graders packing Sterling Buddy Bags at Wesley*

Make plans to join us in exploring your faith this year!

Trick or treat UNICEF collection will be received on Sunday, October 25 & Wednesday, October 28th.

Young people are welcome to wear costumes.



UNICEF was established on December 11, 1946 by the United Nations to meet the emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China. UNICEF is the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. For over 70 years, across 190 countries and territories, UNICEF defends the rights of every child. In cooperation with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNICEF saves and protects the world's most vulnerable children, working to ensure child rights and providing health care, immunizations, nutrition, access to safe water and sanitation services, basic education, protection and emergency relief. You can learn more about UNICEF at www.unicef.org.

6th-12th graders: Mark your calendars and make plans to participate in the Wisconsin Dells Youth Quake, February 12-14! Youth Quakes are weekend long



youth events with a band, speaker, Bible teaching & more! The Wisconsin Dells Quake is at the Wilderness Territory Resort. The cost per family is \$75. This event is subsidized by monies raised. The **initial deposit (\$25) for the Quake is due Nov. 1,** so that we can register with the lowest price. The balance of \$50 is due January 14. Scholarships are available! Friends are welcome!



Save the date! The 2027 National Youth Gathering will be June 28 - July 2 in Minneapolis, Minnesota! Youth (8th-12th grade) at the time of **registration (Oct. 21, 2026)** and Young Adult (18-35 yrs.) are eligible to

**IMAGINE
more**

attend the gathering. *If you plan to attend please contact Pastor Bree by **October 7th**, so we have time to apply for the reduced registration rate and scholarships.*

The theme is Imagine More. Check out the ELCA Youth Gathering web page for links to resources and social media channels. **Follow us:**

<https://www.elca.org/gathering>

TikTok: [@elcagathering](https://www.tiktok.com/@elcagathering)

Facebook: [fb.com/youthgathering](https://www.facebook.com/youthgathering)

Instagram: [@elcagathering](https://www.instagram.com/elcagathering)



Autumn Fest

Make plans to join us for Autumn Fest on Saturday, October 10 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.! It will be a day of fun at camp including Pumpkin Carving, Cider Pressing, Crafts, Wagon Rides, Hikes, Campfire S'mores, and a "Taste of Camp". Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(\$10). Worship service at 3 p.m. Signup for lunch or to volunteer at <https://lomc.org/autumn-fest/> LOMC is located at 1834 S. IL Route 2, Oregon. All are welcome!

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.

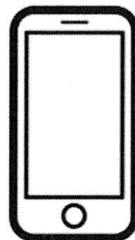
Council Contact Information				
Pastor	Pastor Bree Truax 360-989-4906 pastorimmanuelrf@gmail.com			
Executive Board	President Nick Dirks 815-441-4599 nickwdirks@gmail.com	Vice President Deb Keaschall 815-718-5237 debkeaschall@gmail.com	Secretary Ronda Borgmann 815-622-9306 Rondaborgmann@gmail.com	Treasurer Bill Wescott 815-590-6270 paramedic61071@yahoo.com
Congregational Life Ministry	Deb Keaschall 815-718-5237 debkeaschall@gmail.com	Deb Cervantes 815-535-8242 debdownhend@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		

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

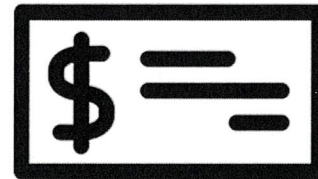
THANKS for supporting the mission & ministry of Immanuel! Your partnership in the Gospel makes an immense difference! We have THREE secure ways for you to give.



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. Thanks!

Moeller, Myers

**& ASSOCIATES PC
Counseling & Consulting**

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Marc Schutz (815) 716-0310

Shane Schutz (815) 716-0320

Chad Wetzell (815) 716-3837

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501 8th Avenue
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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.

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

Sunday School—10:15-11 a.m. on Sundays

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

Phone-in worship—available anytime—**1-888-975-5536**