

The Spirit of Immanuel

August 2019

Now there are varieties of Gifts, but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4

CAST YOUR
BURDEN ON
THE LORD,
AND HE WILL
SUSTAIN YOU.
PSALM 55:22, ESV

Immanuel Lutheran Church

- * Worship Services
Sundays, 10:00 am
- * Sunday School
for Pre-school
through High
School
(off for the summer)
- * Weekly Fellowship
- * Choir and Chimes
- * Prayer Chain

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and blessings from St. John's Lutheran Church of Anchor, Illinois! We would like to invite you and your congregation to join us in a journey of learning on how to better spread the Good News and encourage our brothers and sisters to actively serve and love God.

On September 14, from 9:30 - 1:30 pm, Rev. Elise Eklund Rothfusz, Director for Evangelical Mission for the Central/Southern Illinois Synod (ELCA), will be leading a workshop at St. John's, ***We Are Apostles Too: Learning How to Effectively Evangelize in Our Rural Communities***. Prior the workshop, we will prepare by discussing *The Invitational Christian*, a book focused on why we should evangelize in rural communities and learning methods on how to evangelize and better open our doors to our community. A follow up workshop will be held in the spring to discuss what we have learned, what we have tried, what has worked, and what we should do next. We invite you to join us in as much or as little of this journey as you wish!

As a bit of background on this workshop, this past winter, our former minister, Pastor Ed Hudelson, asked us during a sermon a simple question, "If there was one thing you would like to see happen at St. John's before you die, what would it be?" He then made us answer it (not easy for a Lutheran). With the responses compiled, we had a Bucket List. The number one answer for us was to spread the Word better to our community. The number two answer was we need to better serve our community and those in need. We decided it was time to act.

But, despite our decision, we had one major question. How do you effectively evangelize? And we had one major concern. We are a bit nervous (or for some of us, terrified) talking about our faith in Jesus to others who might not agree. With this in mind, we decided the first best step was to prepare ourselves by learning more about what other congregations have done, why and if we really want to evangelize, and if so, how to effectively do it. And, as we all can learn from one another and help each other spread the Good News regardless of where or how we worship, we invite you, and all Christians, to join us.

Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration on taking this journey of learning with us. If you do wish to join us or are considering doing so, we are happy to provide you with a copy of *The Invitational Christian* and more details on the upcoming workshop on September 14. Also, if you have any questions or would like to talk more about the book, workshop or our experience at St. John's, please do not hesitate to contact me or our minister, Pastor Jim Davis at 309-826-4968.

In the Peace and Grace of Christ Jesus,
Jeremy Meiners
(309) 723 - 3231 jrmeiners@live.com

If you are planning to attend this even on September 14, please contact Jeremy Meiners at the number listed so that the folks of St. John's can plan for the number of people in attendance.

Pastor's Message

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Colfax is showing what it is to step up in faith and hospitality by offering a PrayGround for our children (especially ages 3 and younger). Immanuel's Council approved a PrayGround for our worship space, on the condition that the congregation can offer constructive thoughts about it at our next Annual Meeting.



No one has to use the PrayGround, but for those who wish to, the area behind the east pews will be a space for our youngest to have as their own during worship, allowing their parents more of an opportunity to participate fully in worship. The intention is not to make it quieter, but to provide a space and activities that are more conducive to children their age than sitting still for an hour is.

Another expression of our hospitality can be to leave the back pews open for families that may wish to use our PrayGround.



The main aisle becomes our entry and exit into the worship space (the inside doors to the tower entry will be closed, and only opened in the case of an emergency).

For safety sake we will seek "Present People" to 'staff' the PrayGround each Sunday. One or more adults or youth will sign up (beginning July 28) to be present in the PrayGround during worship and make sure the children are accounted for. "Present People" will also do a quick sanitizing of the PrayGround so it is ready for the next time. Their title is two-fold; they will be present for our children, and PrayGround people will be gifts one to another.

The PrayGround will be removed for funerals and weddings.

As we begin this ministry, we once again remember Jesus speaking in Matthew 25, "whenever you welcomed one of the least of these, you welcomed me."

Church Council Minutes

June 17, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Danny Harms, Don Brucker, Marcia Buchs, Angie Kratochvil, Kolton Brucker, Chuck Weber, Terry Bose, and Pastor Tom

Dan called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer. Angie led devotions about our attitudes and always looking to the positive, describing her experiences with some students earlier this year and connecting it to the time and energy given by all involved with VBS. Like the church sign currently says, "No matter what we're facing, God is good."

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Angie read the May 13 minutes. Terry motioned to approve, and Marcia seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Marcia shared the January-May Profit and Loss report, the May Profit and Loss report, and the May 31, 2019 Balance Sheet. Angie motioned to approve, and Don seconded. Motion carried.

Dave Hammer will come to our meeting on July 8 to further discuss his suggestions for the CD's maturing June 24.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor shared his report. Pastor Corinne Blissard is on call during most of the week that Pastor is on vacation at the end of June. Don motioned to approve, and Kolton seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

On July 14 at 5:00 PM, the Forrest Lutheran Church has invited us to a cookout and softball game at the ball diamond in Forrest. They'll provide the food, but we offered to provide desserts or other food that may be helpful.

Jamie Wilson is still working on the sound system.

Terry will check with Windell Concrete about the sidewalk replacement timeline.

Leigh Carter from Indianapolis met with Tracy about the stained glass windows. He will give us a quote for fixing the stained glass in the sanctuary. He also says that the stained glass above the altar is bowing and needs repair; we discussed that this could be costly.

NEW BUSINESS:

The pole light on the road is out. Since the wiring is underground, Terry says it is on us to replace.

Discussion of a playground followed. Angie motioned, and Marcia seconded, to add a playground to the back of the sanctuary for a trial period through the 2020 annual meeting, at which time we would discuss its continuance. Motion carried by a 4-3 vote.

We decided to cut back to two applications on the lawn each year (fertilizer and weed control) instead of four.

Terry motioned to adjourn, and Chuck seconded. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be July 8 at 6:30 with Trinity Lutheran Church and a financial gifts advisor, followed by our own Council meeting at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Kratochvil

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, August 25 after church
to discuss and vote on Council's
recommendation to repair and
refurbish stained glass windows in the
sanctuary at a cost of nearly \$10,000

Council Members

Dan Harms

Don Brucker

Terry Bose

Dan Kukuck

Tracy Harms

Kolton Brucker

Marcia Buchs

Angie Kratochvil

Chuck Weber

Pastor Tom Krieger

Parish Education Committee

Yvonne Becker

Rebecca Casson

Louann Harms

Jeanie Weber

Youth Director

Briana Ray

Stewardship Committee

Marcia Buchs. Chair

Louann Harms

Don Brucker

Terry Bose

Jerry Kukuck

Community in Christ

Lutheran World Relief Kits for 2019

August – School Supplies –

It is back to school time when August comes and we will want to get kids off to school with lots of great supplies. We will order draw string back packs to fill and have these available to fill.

Notebooks, pens, pencils, glue sticks, crayons, scissors, erasers, rulers - Complete lists are available on the table in the fellowship hall.

Thank you for everything!

Quilting for LWR -

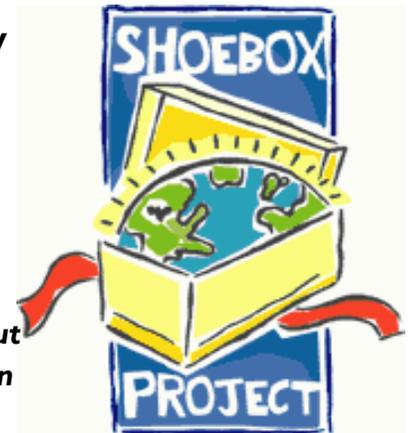
Monday, August 5 from 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Wednesday, August 21 from 8:00 - 11:00 am

Anyone is welcome to help layer and tie quilts. There are also bags of quilt top squares ready to sew together on the table in the fellowship hall.

We are currently collecting **School supplies** to put into the shoeboxes later this year.

But be on the lookout for great bargains on items all year long.



Friendly games, food, and fellowship.

Matthew 25 Project Funds

Month	Operating Income	Operating Expense	Plus/Minus	2019 Running Total	Matt 25 funds used	Matt 25 Running Balance
January	\$19,538	\$9,917	\$9,621	\$9,621		\$0
February	\$11,316	\$9,250	\$2,066	\$11,687		\$20,000
March	\$5,272	\$7,066	\$-1,794	\$9,893	\$2,180	\$17,820
April	\$5,145	\$10,114	\$-4,969	\$4,924	\$630	\$17,190
May	\$3,340	\$7,683	\$-4,343	\$581	\$1,245	\$15,945
June	\$4,632	\$8,204	\$-3,572	\$-2,991	\$0	\$15,945

*This only includes general fund giving and usual expenses; it does not include any restricted income or expenses.

August 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday - 9:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Service				1  Tyler & Leeann Bain	2 Gary Kessinger	3  Kyle & Amanda Calvert Annaliese Miller Noah Miller Addison Brucker
4 Jason Wagoner	5 12:30 - 3:30 pm Knotting Quilts Delmar Miller	6 Kourtney Brucker Sabra Brucker	7 Tyler Harms Michelle Krieger Amy Winterland	8 Rich Johnson	9  John & Cindy Harris	10 Karen Harms
11	12 7:00 pm Council Meeting Rick Winterland	13 Adaline Calvert	14 Dagan Brucker Kara Richie Reagan Weber	15 Courtney Feger Jerry Wilson	16	17 Kirk Ummel
18	19 Fairbury Food Pantry - 4:30 pm Larry Poppe	20 Renette Althouse Jeramey Breeding	21 8 - 11:00 am Knotting Quilts Lea Ann Watson	22  Norman & Karen Harms Kevin & Karen Powell	23	24
25  Jeramey & Jennifer Breeding Jordan Pilgrim	26 Acer Kratochvil Jerry Kukuck	27 Tracy Harms	28 Brittany Feger	29	30	31

Worship Assistants

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Ushers / Acolytes</u>
August 4	Brianna Ray	Kevin & Louann Harms	Elton Mau, Jerry Kukuck	Parker, Ty Harms
August 11	Chuck Weber	Dan & Tracy Harms		Shannon, Alison Roark
August 18	Amy Winterland	Matt Harms	Chuck Weber, Joyce Miller	Jerry & Suzie Kukuck
August 25	Dee Winterland	Andrew & Stephanie Harper		Alex, Annalyn Harper
Sept. 1	Lisa Winterland	Jeff & Megan Harris	Alan & Sabrina Petersen	Phil & Angie K.
Sept. 8	God's Work - Our Hands Day			

Prayground Present People helpers are asked to sign up at the information table as church.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Newsletter information or member phone & address changes may be sent to Cindy Wilson at ckwilson1983@gmail.com

A day away in a quiet place (photo by Pst. Tom Krieger)

Maya Angelou said, “Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us.” Similarly, when Jesus’ disciples were consumed with ministry, he urged them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31, NIV).

The late days of summer might be just the time to seek “a day away” not only from problems but even from ministry. While serving God and others can be energizing, we must balance work with rest. God set that example, resting after creating the world; Jesus set that example, calling his disciples away — not just alone, but *with him* — to be refreshed. Spend a relaxing day at a lake. Go on a scrapbooking retreat or a leisurely hike with a friend. Invite Jesus into that time and space. And remember another message he shared: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28, NIV).

