

# The Spirit of Immanuel

September 2019



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

1 Corinthians 12:4

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

- \* Worship Services  
Sundays, 8:30 am
- \* Sunday School  
9:30 am  
for Pre-school  
through High  
School
- \* Weekly Fellowship
- \* Choir and Chimes
- \* Prayer Chain



Central/Southern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

### September 8, 2019

Plan to attend this year's event on Sunday, September 8th!

Casual attire is welcome, including wearing a previous year's God's Work. Our Hands yellow t-shirt or a Thrivent Live Generously t-shirt.

The day will begin with a short **8:30 a.m.** worship service followed by a delicious hot breakfast. Your free will donation will help pay for the shipping of the Operation Shoeboxes later this year.

After breakfast, our traditional group picture will be taken. Then we will head to Gary and Marcia Buchs' home to harvest whatever potatoes have grown. Be sure to bring your own work gloves or potato-digging shovel, and head back to the church when finished if you are able to help with other activities.

There is plenty to do at the church for all ages. Tie fleece blankets will be made for the Children's Hospital (bring your fabric scissors if you have them). The shoebox donations need to be organized so it can be determined what is still needed. There will also be a couple activities for all ages to make cards for our Immanuel members who are unable to worship with us.

We have been blessed with a lot of quilt fabric donations, which is taking up space in a Sunday School room and storeroom. Therefore, another activity will be to press fabric and cut it into 21" squares. Please bring a cutting mat, rotary cutter and scissors if you have them.

Feel free to invite friends, neighbors or someone who may have an interest in attending Immanuel so they can learn about who we are and our mission!

*Ephesians 2:10 – It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.*

309-723-5091  
immanuelcolfax@hotmail.com

Pastor Tom Krieger  
815-848-5884  
tomkrieger63@gmail.com

Council President  
Dan Harms  
815-692-3055  
Danielharms1978@yahoo.com

Church Secretary  
Cindy Wilson  
309-825-4099  
ckwilson1983@gmail.com

## Pastor's Message

A colleague and dear friend of mine will be beginning an interim at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Indiana. He directed me to their website to see a little of what the congregation is about. The Ministry with Adults section about "Spiritual Growth Groups" caught my attention right away for the variety and possibilities they offer to everyone! I love that the Groups are self-organizing. Express an interest, offer the invitation through the church, and gather with others who share that interest or are curious about it. And because they are about Spiritual Growth as a people of God, they intentionally include "scripture, sharing deeply about their lives and faith, praying together, and choosing a mission project". And what's more, St. Thomas shows it is serious by using an endowment fund to financially support that mission work, much like our Matthew 25 Project encourages us to at Immanuel!

I invite you to be inspired by their spiritual growth, by reading about some of what they had going at the end of 2018, and then to take it one step further: **what are your interests?** Might they find a spiritual growth that others can share in too? Let me know!!! - Pastor Tom

### Spiritual Growth Groups \_\_\_\_\_

This small group ministry honors the interests and calls of our members. Those who **share a common interest**, whether practical or missional, are invited to join with others. Each group spends time on the interest that brought them together, but they also spend time studying scripture, sharing deeply about their lives and faith, praying together, and choosing a mission project. Spiritual Growth Groups may apply for funds through the St. Thomas Mission Endowment Fund to support their mission work.

Spiritual growth groups at St. Thomas are **self-organizing**. They come about when a few people are passionate about an idea, a way of serving others, a path to insight, a certain book of poems and prayers, or something else that seems like it should be shared. Groups change in response to people's interests. We've had a **Men's Group**, an **Artists' Group**, a **Young Woman's Group** – and we could have those groups again, if anyone wanted to start one. New ideas are welcome too!

As of November 2018, these are spiritual growth groups that are currently meeting or getting started...

**The Locavores** meet about once a month between services and have offered programs to the whole church on topics around faithful and prudent *farming and food preparation*.

**The Iona Prayer Group:** The Iona Prayer Group meets together to pray using *the Iona Community method of prayer*. The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community of women and men who seek to live out the Gospel in a way that is radical, inclusive and relevant to life in the 21st century (<https://iona.org.uk/>). Meeting dates and times TBD.

**Lively Older Lutherans:** If you are a *retired* member of our congregation, join us for fellowship, lunch, and conversation. Enjoy a Wednesday soup and bread (and dessert, of course) lunch at church. Volunteers can provide soup, bread, dessert, or all three! Coffee will be provided. We'll discuss future meetings and ideas for activities.

**Intergenerational Fiber Arts Group:** Bring a *craft* to work on, learn a new craft, enjoy fellowship and conversation, and munch on some snacks! Create your own project, collaborate on a project, or work on a service project. This group is open to all ages, all crafts, and all skill levels.

**Men's Fellowship Group:** Get together with other STLC *guys* to enjoy conversation, fellowship, and laughter! Get to know one another at a deeper level and discuss issues that are important to you. Join in on a Bible study or just enjoy our time together!

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# Pastor's Message

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**Parents' Café:** Did you know that as a *parent* you are your child's most influential spiritual model and teacher? Parents' Café Spiritual Growth Group will meet every Sunday morning during the Education Hour for coffee and conversation. Our focus will be strengthening one another for *fostering faith at home*. We will share tips and tools. We will study scripture. We will pray. And, in the process, we'll get to know one another a little (or a lot!) better.

**Women's Bible Study:** Join us for every second Sunday of the month for a women's Bible study based on the monthly *Bible study* from Women of the ELCA's *Gather Magazine*. Let's journey together each month! This Bible study will not conflict with the dates that Living the Questions meets. If you subscribe to *Gather Magazine*, feel free to bring your copy. Copies of the Bible study will also be provided. Feel free to attend when you can! We will meet in Rooms 16/17.

**Collage-Making:** *Learn to make a collage* for loved ones that is sure to become a treasured heirloom! Collages are great gifts for Christmas, birthdays, confirmations, graduations, weddings, and to celebrate a new member of the family. A sample collage will be shown as a way to generate ideas and inspiration. Meeting date: TBD.

**STLC Euchre-ists:** Get together with other *euchre* enthusiasts for fun and all things *euchre*. Don't know how to play? Join us and we'll teach you! It's been scientifically proven that playing *euchre* adds positively to the quality of one's life.

**Women's Book Club:** This group provides an opportunity for STLC women to get together to *discuss a book* (read by group members beforehand), as well as to get to know each other more deeply and enjoy fellowship with one another!

Potential Books:

"Jesus Feminist" by Sarah Bessey

"7: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess (The 7 Experiment)" by Jen Hatmaker

"Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr

**Young Adults Group:** Joins us *20-through-30-somethings* for conversation and fellowship specific to this time in our lives! Meeting dates and times TBD.

**Intercessory Prayer Group:** Join with others in *praying* for those in need, our world, and for each other! Meeting dates and times TBD.

**Games & Gab:** Get together for *games* and fellowship. Get to know one another better and find out who has a competitive streak in their personality! Beginner, intermediate, and advanced game players are welcome. Bring a game of your own or play one brought by others. Families are welcome! Meeting dates and times TBD.

**Sister Parish Prayer Partners:** The Sister Parish Committee is starting a *prayer partnership* with our Sister Parish friends in Chichipate! We will each send a photo of ourselves with our names, ages, basic family information, profession, and anything for which we'd like to receive prayers. We will receive similar information from Sister Parish. We are committing to pray for our prayer partner once a day. No specific meeting dates or times are necessary.

**Dinners for Eight:** Groups of eight people will get together to plan *meals* and take turns hosting in their homes. Games and other activities may also be planned. Choose a meal theme (e.g., Italian, German, Swedish, Eritrean, etc.) if you'd like! This is a meaningful way to get to know others in the church. Please feel free to sign up even if you can't host a dinner! Dinners will start in January.

**Sunday morning worship time**

**September 2019 – August 2020**

**8:30 am @ Immanuel**

**9:30 am - Sunday School**

# Church Council Minutes

July 8, 2019

**ATTENDANCE:** Danny Harms, Marcia Buchs, Angie Kratochvil, Kolton Brucker, Chuck Weber, Terry Bose, Dan Kukuck, Tracy Harms, and Pastor Tom

We began at 6:30 in a joint meeting with Trinity. Pastor opened with prayer. Tim Urness, Regional Gift Planner from the ELCA Foundation, spoke to us about how we could draft a gift policy and invite the congregation to consider gifting to the church and then how the church might use those gifts.

Danny called the meeting to order. Dave Hammer met with our Council as a follow-up to our May 13, 2019 meeting. After discussion, Terry motioned, and Dan seconded, to liquidate the Securian mutual fund account and invest \$105,000 in the American Funds Enhanced Retirement Income and the balance of approximately \$45,000 into Lord Abbett Ultra Short short-term bond funds. Motion carried. (We will no longer place this money in a 5-7 year index CD as approved on May 13, 2019.)

Marcia led devotions, sharing a letter she wrote about 20 years ago to her previous congregation after she had moved here. This letter described how Immanuel was different, but then during one Sunday service, she realized that the Holy Spirit moves through both churches and all of us no matter the differences or the divisions.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Angie read the June 17 minutes. Chuck motioned to approve, and Kolton seconded. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marcia shared the January-June Profit and Loss report, the June Profit and Loss report, and the June 30, 2019 Balance Sheet. Dan motioned to approve, and Tracy seconded. Motion carried.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor shared his report, including an invitation to an evangelism workshop at St. John's in Anchor on September 14. Terry motioned to approve, and Tracy seconded. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Danny will talk to Steidinger Brothers about replacing the broken light bulb on the front pole.

Windell Concrete will begin work on Monday, July 15 on the front sidewalk and the bell tower.

Danny will ask Jamie Wilson to complete work on the sound system by the August 31, 2019 wedding.

The Council recommends approving the work to repair the stained glass windows in the church at a cost of almost \$10,000. We will hold a congregational meeting on August 25 after church for the congregation to vote on spending this money. We could use \$5,500 from the Memorial Fund.

Angie shared a draft of cleaning expectations. We discussed a few changes. Danny will meet with our cleaner to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Regarding the presentation from Tim Urness, we tabled any decisions until another meeting.

Ridgeview has requested a financial donation to purchase school supplies. Dan moved, and Angie seconded, to give \$300 to Ridgeview and \$300 to Prairie Central per council discretion. Motion carried.

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

Next meeting will be August 12 at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Kratochvil

## 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

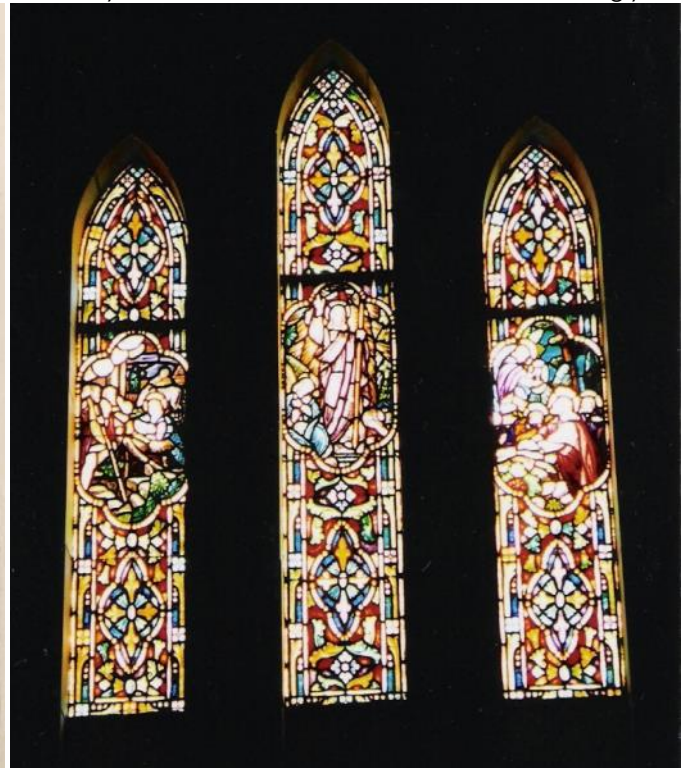
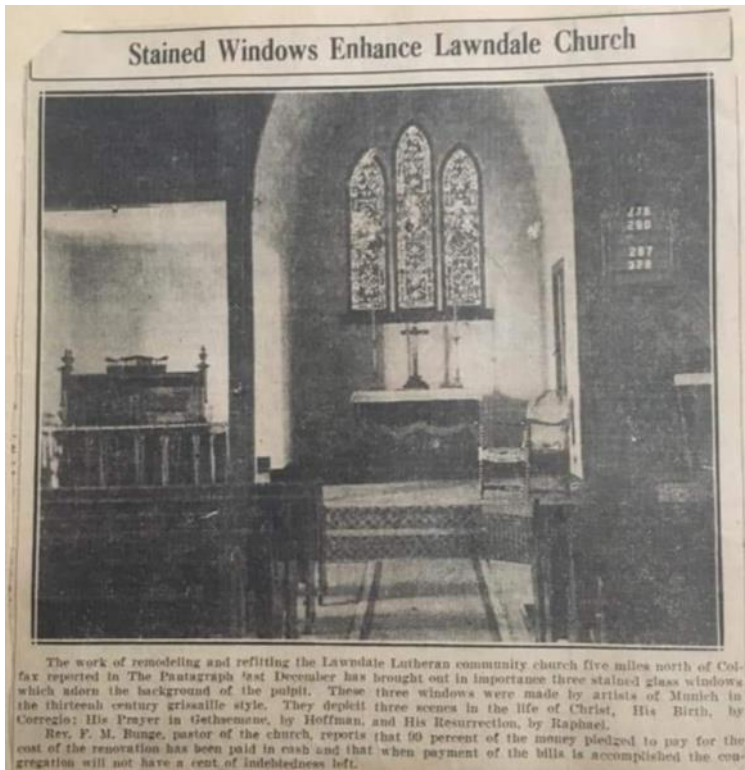
Don Brucker

Terry Bose

Jerry Kukuck

## Embracing & Preserving our History

Immanuel Lutheran Church approved the restoration of the three stained glass windows in the fore of our worship space. They will be removed this fall, restored in Indianapolis, and replaced next spring. Thanks to Marcia Buchs for providing this circa 1945 account from the building they first graced. (Current color picture by newsletter editor. We welcome any additional information that older folks may remember about the older church building.)



The caption at the bottom of the photo reads,

The work of remodeling and refitting the Lawndale Lutheran community church five miles north of Colfax reported in The Pantagraph last December has brought out in importance three stained glass windows which adorn the background of the [altar]. The three windows were made by artists of Munich in the thirteenth century style. They depict three scenes in the life of Christ:

- His Birth, by Correggio
- His Prayer in Gethsemane, by Hoffman
- His Resurrection, by Raphael.

Rev. F. M. Bunge, pastor of the church, reports that 99% of the money pledged to pay off the cost of the renovation has been paid in cash and that when payment of the bills is accomplished the congregation will not have a cent of indebtedness left.

### **The Women of the ELCA are invited to attend the 2019 Biennial Convention**

on Friday and Saturday, October 11-12 at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, Illinois. Guest speakers, activities, displays, and fellowship will highlight the event. Additional information is available at Immanuel or by calling Penny Madlinger at 618-964-4969. Reservations are due by September 25th.

# Community in Christ

## **Lutheran World Relief Kits for 2019**

### **September – 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.

**Thanks to all for donations for the Baby Care Kits, School Kits, Sewing Kits, bars of soap and material for sewing kits to be sent overseas in October. You are all such wonderful and caring church members.**

**Thank you for everything!**



**We are currently collecting chapstick, bracelets, small board books, crafting beads, flip-flops, socks, or any small items that you wish to put into the shoeboxes later this year.**

Thanks to Harlan Brucker, Kimberly Petersen, Jerry and Suzie Kukuck, Louann and Ty Harms and Norm and Karen Harms for helping at the Fairbury Food Pantry on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Harlan for the donation of yummy watermelons and cantaloupe to those who came in for food at the pantry.

### **Quilting for LWR -**

**LWR Quilts – Two work days are scheduled to press, cut, and organize our donations. This is needed to free up space in a Sunday School room and the storeroom. Join us on Wed, Sept. 11 from 8-11:00 a.m. and Monday, Sept 16 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. (note the different times).**

## Sunday School

### **We Need Your Prayers and Support !**


The new Sunday School season will begin on **Sunday, September 15th at 9:30 am -**

Remember, church services will start at 8:30 am this Sunday, September 1st!

Our teachers also need your support. If you would be able to share a teaching position, lead songs, do a craft or special activity, please contact Louann Harms or one of our Parish Education members. This request is not limited to moms or grandmothers; men and older teens have gifts to share as well. Please consider sharing your gifts with our Immanuel Team.



# September 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1 <i>Service at 8:30 am</i>  Ralph Petersen	2  Jodi Hall	3  Rich & Connie Johnson	4	5  Ryan & Tiffany Myers	6	7	
8 8:30 am <b>God's Work - Our Hands Day of Service</b> 1:30 pm @ Forrest Confirmation class	9 <b>Council Meeting 7:00 pm</b>  Kamryn Rinkenberger	10	11  Quilting Work Day 8:00-11:00 am  Maesyn Miller	12  Eva Ifft Donald Poppe	13  Kevin & Louann Harms	14 <b>Workshop at St. John's, Anchor 9:30-1:30 pm. Please inform Pastor Tom by Sept. 6 if you are planning to attend</b>	
15 <b>Sunday School begins - 9:30 am</b>  Dana & Sue Coldren  Tyler Bain	16  Quilting Work Day 12:30 - 3:30 pm	17  Jason & Emily Wagoner Teri Kellar	18  Dusty Gleeson Robert Lilienthal	19  Zane Hoffman	20	21  Norman Harms Cale Hoffman	
22 <b>High School &amp; Sunday School - 9:30 am</b> 1:30 pm @ Forrest Confirmation class  Brian Wilson	23	24  Todd Harris Avery Poppe	25  Holden Myers Cole Winterland	26	27  Rick Althouse Jonathan Harris	28  Scott & Jenny Compton Virginia Winterland	
29  Rick & Renette Althouse Rebecca Casson Sharon Kessinger	30  Cora Ummel					Each Sunday - 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship & Sunday School	

## Worship Assistants

Date	Reader	Greeters	Communion	Ushers / Acolytes
Sept. 1	Keith Winterland	Jeff & Megan Harris	Alan & Sabrina Petersen	Phil & Angie K.
Sept. 8	God's Work - Our Hands Day <i>(All Hands on Deck!)</i>			
Sept. 15	Lisa Winterland	John & Cindy Harris	Mike & Kimberly Petersen	Peyton, Kamryn R.
Sept. 22	Yvonne Becker	Ron & Deb Jaskowiak		Craig Becker, Acer K.
Sept. 29	Rebecca Casson	Sharon Kessinger		Dan, Kevin Harms
Oct. 6	Sue Coldren	Phil & Angie Kratochvil	Norman & Karen Harms	Ainsley, Ashlyn K.


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

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

PO Box 415  
 34606 E. 2450 North Road  
 Colfax, Illinois 61728

**Sunday morning worship time**  
September 2019 – August 2020  
 8:30 am @ Immanuel

Newsletter information or member phone & address changes may be sent to Cindy Wilson at [ckwilson1983@gmail.com](mailto:ckwilson1983@gmail.com)



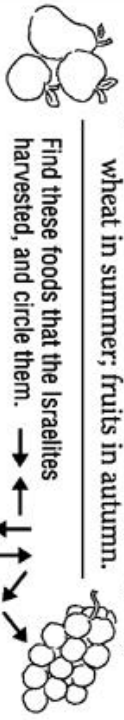
**Just for KIDS**

**The Harvest**

Harvest time was very important to the Israelites. They had three harvests each year: barley in spring; wheat in summer; fruits in autumn.

Find these foods that the Israelites harvested, and circle them.

GRAPES	HERBS	OLIVES	APPLES	GOURDS
BARLEY	NUTS	BEANS	ONIONS	LENTILS
ALMONDS	LEEKs	FIGS	CUCUMBERS	
WHEAT	MELONS	RYE	POMEGRANATES	



H A C B R Y E B R V E N  
 G A U A S N O L E M S U  
 R L C R F I G S T A T T  
 A M U L I M B E H A N S  
 P O M E G R A N A T E S S  
 E N B Y E S E L P P A K  
 S D E H R O N I O N S S E  
 V S R E S G O U R D S S E  
 T I S M E S L I T N E L  
 S E V I L L O W H E A T H

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