



The Immanuel Echo

The Newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church
Manitowoc, WI
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

August 2019

"10 For 10" Coming To Immanuel This September

"All the church ever talks about is money!"

Dear brothers and sisters,

You've heard statements like that before. You may even have said something like that before. Over the years, you've heard me take statements like that to task. Why? First, because it's simply not true. (It has been a few years since we've done a significant stewardship emphasis that encourages regular, weekly offerings at Immanuel.) Second, the statement is misleading: God wants a lot more than our money! He wants us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. If we could love God in that way, money would be a non-issue.

Selfishness
- Hoarding
- Discontent
- Fear
- Sadness



Generosity
+ Sharing
+ Content
+ Peace
+ Joy

Since 1927, our members have generously supported the gospel ministry at Immanuel. However, our current situation is not good. We continue to struggle with our Line of Credit as we run tens of thousands of dollars behind each year. Our regular offerings rarely meet our stated weekly goal. And all of this in a congregation that has no capital debt, no mortgage to pay. We are having a hard time just paying our called workers and funding operating expenses. In our current situation, calling the much-needed second pastor just isn't possible. Our gospel ministry suffers as a result.

Spoiler alert: You will hear biblical preaching on the stewardship of treasures this fall at Immanuel. In September, we will challenge our Immanuel family to give a tithe (10%) OR to increase the proportion of what they are giving for their weekly offerings for a period of ten weeks. Why? Our giving shows the Lord the honor, love, and gratitude we have for what Christ has done for us. Generous giving is one of the ways that faith-filled hearts respond to the riches of Christ. Giving is *an act of worship*. That's the only reason we pass offering plates during church services.

The practice of *tithing* (giving 10%) is at least as old as Abraham (Genesis 14:20). In Old Testament Israel, tithing was commanded by law. In the New Testament Church, tithing—along with all other methods of giving—is inspired by the gospel of Christ. Many Christians, free from compulsion, tithe as an exercise of their faith. Does God really have the ability to keep us safe, warm and well-fed without 10% of our income? To share an even greater proportion of our income? Faith relishes the challenge. The Spirit is up to the task!

How is it possible to give something like the tithe—and do so freely and joyfully? Christ's love empowers his people to give generously. It flows freely from Christ "who loved us and gave himself up for us" (Ephesians 5:2). Our generous giving to God is a response to Christ's willing sacrifice for us.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Our Ministry

"10 For 10" Coming To IMMANUEL THIS SEPTEMBER

(continued from page 1)

Finally, tithing serves New Testament Christians as a benchmark for *proportionate giving*. The Apostle Paul said, "...each one of you should set aside a sum of money *in keeping with your income*" (1 Corinthians 16:2). As New Testament Christians, tithing is a practice to be engaged in freely rather than a requirement to be met legally. Some of us are already in the spiritual habit of tithing. Inspired by God's grace, we may seek to give more, more often, more creatively. For others, tithing will be a big step forward as well as a significant test of faith. For still others, because of life-issues known to God, the tithe might currently be unreach-able. Then what about an extra percent, or two, or three? No matter where we find ourselves on the "giving spectrum," this is true: Our trust in God's goodness is well-placed! "Now to Him Who is able to do *immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us to Him be glory in all the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen*" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

You will be receiving several mailings, devotional pieces, and a commitment packet over the next four months as part of our **10 for 10 Stewardship Emphasis**. Receive them in the spirit they are offered: As an opportunity to grow in faith and in the grace of giving. Study them. Think about them. Pray through them. They will help keep our stewardship emphasis centered in Christ and the cross as we seek to avoid financial quick-fixes and gimmicks!

May the Lord of the Church richly bless our Immanuel family as we seek to excel in the grace of giving!

In Christ,
Pastor Daniel Sims



Keep The SON In Your Summer!

Thursday worship is at 6:30 PM, so don't forget to take advantage of it if you are going to be out of town for the weekend.
Sunday worship is at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.

It is the growing season for our lawns, gardens, flower beds, and fields. It is **ALWAYS** growing season for your souls. Come and get your faith watered each week at church. We don't worship because we know everything is going to work out. We worship because even when it doesn't work out, we want to be with Jesus.

When you are out of town, go to **wels.net** and click on the **Find A Church** link located on the middle right on the homepage to find a WELS church near your vacation destination.

You can also watch: TIME OF GRACE

WBGA-TV Channel 26, Sunday mornings at 6:30 AM

You can mail or drop off your regular church offerings at 916 Pine Street, use the donation link at ilutheran.org, or sign up for regular withdrawals from your bank account thru ETF. For more information, please contact the front office at church@ilutheran.org or 684-3404.

August Bible Study Information...

● **Summer Sunday Bible Study Series:**

† **Very Important Chapters—VIC**

This summer we will continue a study on the Very Important Chapters of the Bible. We are currently studying the New Testament, the book of Luke. Each study stands on its own, so you don't need to worry if you miss a week or two while on vacation. The lessons will be taught in a relaxed, family atmosphere. Parents with little ones are encouraged to bring them along (and perhaps a snack or coloring book for them too). *Our Bible study is held in the Fellowship Hall (church basement) from 9:25 AM to 10:10 AM.*
JOIN US...ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



● **Men—Opportunities to Grow In Faith...**

† **Men's Prayer Group** meets on the **first and third Tuesday of August at 7:00 AM** in the Gathering Room.

† **Men's Breakfast Bible Study**—Rise and shine on the second and fourth Saturday of the month and join us in the Fellowship Hall **at 8:00 AM** for a bite to eat and a serving of the Bread of Life. In **August**, Men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet on **the 10th and 24th**.



Men's Bible Study

SAVE THE DATE...GERMAN FEST

WHEN: Sunday, October 27th

WHERE: Immanuel after 10:30 AM Service



Women's Bible Study resumes in September

All ladies, mark your calendars to join us on **Saturdays, September 14th and 28th at 8:30 AM**, for a study through the series entitled *Fruit of the Spirit* by Lane Burgland. Jesus has called every believer to bear fruit. Jesus said, "...I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last." John 15:16 But what fruit? How will you bear fruit as a believer?

In September we will study the Fruit of Goodness. This is an on-going Bible Study, join us at any time. You do not need to purchase any materials, we have copies available for you. We meet in the Conference Room located in the church office area.

If you have any suggestions or questions regarding our Bible Study, please contact Judy Fuerbringer at 973-3355 or judynglenn@ameritech.net.



PLAN TO JOIN US...WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!!!! ☺

HELP WITH IMMANUEL FAMILY PICNIC

The Immanuel Family Picnic and Immanuel Back to School event will be on **Sunday, August 18th**. Various games for all ages and activities to enjoy along with The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra will provide afternoon entertainment. This is a **FREE** event open to all Immanuel families, friends and the community.



We are looking for monetary donations and items to assist in deferring the cost. Volunteers are also needed to make this event a success for all. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the Church Office and marked for a specific item listed, or for a general picnic offering. **Online signup is available at SignUp.com.** Here is how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Type this link in your browser's address bar to see our SignUp on SignUp.com:**
<https://signup.com/login/entry/197027155519696069>
2. **Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.**
3. **Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.**

Signup sheets will also be made available in the back of Church in the coming weeks. Any questions can be directed to Mitch Geissler at mitchgeissler@hotmail.com.

IMMANUEL FAMILY PICNIC

**Sunday, August 18th
10:30 AM**

**Outdoor Worship
Celebration & Picnic**

**Music by
The Lutheran
Ceili Orchestra**

**Following the worship
service there will be food
available at no cost...
hamburgers, brats,
hotdogs, chicken breasts,
chips, beans, applesauce,
carrots, beverages**

Desserts available

**Bring your own lawn
chairs if you would like**



Fun & Games for All Ages

Invite your friends!

Bounce House

Dunk Tank

Face Painting

Cotton Candy

Snow Cones

Bean Bag Games

School News

Our mission is to **assist** the families of our **congregation** and **community** in **training** their children, both **spiritually** and **academically**, through **excellence** in **Christ-centered**

IMMANUEL SCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL KICK OFF Sunday, August 18th

This year we will again combine our annual back-to-school meeting with our family picnic. The meeting/picnic not only provides our school families the chance to get to know each other better, but also provides them the chance to get to know the members of our congregation as they attend this fun, fellowship event together.

The back-to-school picnic is scheduled for **Sunday, August 18th**. A back-to-school meeting with K-8 parents is scheduled in the church from **9:15 AM-10:15 AM**. During the meeting, the children in grades K-8 are welcome to visit their classrooms, bring in their school supplies, organize their desks, and interact with their teachers. At **10:30 AM**, there will be a worship service held outside with special music by the Lutheran Ceili Orchestra. A picnic with food and games will follow the 10:30 AM service.

We hope and pray that all of our school families will be able to attend!

GRADUATION AT IMMANUEL

On May 23rd, we held our eighth grade and kindergarten graduations at the end of the Thursday evening worship service. We had fourteen kindergarten graduates and six eighth grade graduates. The theme for the graduation portion of the service was: "Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." (Psalm 50:15) Of our six eighth grade graduates, all of them plan to continue their education at MLHS. We wish them all God's blessings next year.



2019—20 SCHOOL YEAR

TRUST
in the
LORD

Our theme for the upcoming school year is "*Trusting With All Our Hearts.*" The theme is based on Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." How easily we forget this! Our sinful pride and the world we live in want us to believe that "WE got this!" or that "WE can do it if it we just try hard enough!" At these times, our Lord lovingly reminds us that "WE don't got this." HE DOES. All we can do is trust in Him with all of our hearts, and He will take care of us just as he promises to do. This is the wonderful message that we will again have the privilege to focus on this school year. We thank God for all of his blessings on our school and preschool.



On June 2nd, our congregation held a retirement reception to thank our God for the twenty-seven years that Mrs. Karen Kehl was privileged to serve in the public ministry. A big thank you goes out to all those who had a hand in planning and preparing for that celebration. It was a wonderful time for Karen, her family, and her Immanuel family.

We also give thanks to the Lord of the Church for leading Mrs. Ann Wilson to accept the Call to serve as our 3rd and 4th grade teacher and our school's music director. Mrs. Wilson has 23 years of teaching experience. She has been serving at St. Johns in Newtonburg as their 3rd and 4th grade teacher and music director for the past three years. Prior to that she served at Peace in Livonia, MI as the 1st and 2nd grade teacher, and at Lord and Savior in Crystal Lake, IL, as their kindergarten and preschool teacher. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Wilson to our ministry team!

The Lord also led Mrs. Betsy Nikolai to accept the part-time Call to serve as our afternoon release-time teacher. Last year, Mrs. Nikolai taught part-time in our 3rd and 4th grade classroom. This year, she will be teaching in all three of our upper grade classrooms to provide release-time for our principal, our athletic director, and our music director. We are thankful that she will continue to be part of our ministry team at Immanuel!

Join us in thanking God for not only these faithful workers, but also thanking Him for ALL of our faculty and staff for the work that they do in His kingdom on our behalf.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION—PIE

We are a collaboration of parents, staff, students, and members to encourage student socialization and family networking, while supporting the faculty, staff, and educational environment of Immanuel through fundraisers and community outreach events. Serving this school year as officers are Becca Sweney, President and Amanda Seal, Vice President.

UPCOMING EVENTS—2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

AUGUST

- ◆ **18th—Back to School Sunday/Family Picnic.** PIE would like to take a picture of a big group of students with our new sign at the Family Picnic!

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ **10TH—Back To School Skate Night—6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at Rollaire Skate Center, 930 N. 18th Street. Sponsored by PIE on behalf of the Immanuel Endowment Fund Committee
- ◆ **17th—First PIE Meeting at 6:30 PM**

REMINDER...we continue to collect Box Tops year round. Feel free to drop them off in the collection boxes in the Gathering Room or in the Office.

Thank you for your support!

Please join us by attending an upcoming meeting or by contacting Becca Sweney at 920-242-7502 or Amanda Seal at 920-901-8726 to see how you can assist with our events. We are looking for parent volunteers for the many events we have planned. Our events help give back to the school, create social events for students and parents and support the staff.

We look forward to a great year!!!

June Debt Reduction



Campaign Update

We want to give you an update on the June Debt Reduction Month campaign.

Contributions received towards debt reduction through the weekend of July 7th total \$21,435. This is a very nice amount and we are thankful to God for these blessings! Our weekly contributions however have been falling short of the budgeted weekly goal. This means that in order to pay for our day to day operating expenses and make payroll obligations we are on the cusp of needing to make a draw on the line of credit rather than make a payment to reduce it. Our line of credit debt continues to stand at \$95,090.

Thank you to all who have contributed towards debt reduction and the effort to get our debt under control! Obviously, this is an effort that needs to be ongoing as we move towards our goal of expanding our ministry.

Thank you,
The Immanuel Stewardship Committee



Fun Run/Walk
A part of Camp Phillip's Annual Fall Family Camp!

On **Sunday, September 1, 2019**, YOU can make Camp Phillip run. Relaxation in creation and renewal in Christ will take on a new meaning as you walk or run through the wonders of Camp Phillip. Feel the breeze, hear the Camp Phillip music, touch the sparkling lakefront and be surrounded by encouraging staff and participants. Camp Phillip has offered many something wonderful and meaningful, and this walk/run will benefit the future programs and needs of Camp.

To include as many family members in the fun as as possible, there is also a 1K Camper Scamper for children 10 years of age and younger. Now the whole family can have fun making camp run!

The registration fee will be \$35 for the 5K and \$5 for the 1K before August 15th; the \$35 will include a T-shirt. The registration fee after August 15th will be \$35, but will not include a T-shirt. Payment is due at the time of registration. **Check-in is open from 10:30 AM till 11:15 AM** in the Dining Hall at Camp Phillip. **The 1K race will start at 11:15 AM; the 5K will start at 11:30 AM** and will be closed at 1:15 PM. Run, walk or cheer. . . all are welcome!

Not only will you be getting your exercise for the day, you will get the chance to socialize with other camp families and hang out with some Camp Phillip staff. There will be food, music, games and encouragement all around you. It is a great place to come "home" to and spend some quality time with family and friends on Labor Day weekend.

The registration fee includes a lunch after the run. On the registration form you also have options to purchase meals on Saturday evening and Sunday morning plus lodging for Saturday evening. **Make a weekend of it! Check out [Fall Family Camp](#) for more information. To register for Fall family camp, print off the [Fall family camp registration form](#) (found under "[Registration forms](#)" on the Document downloads page) and mail or fax it to Camp Phillip. Any questions about Fall Family Camp, lodging or race registration, contact Camp Phillip at office@campphillip.com or 920-787-3202. Visit the website at www.campphillip.com and click on the link to register. Do you love Camp Phillip but are not able to make the race? That is okay! Donations are always appreciated and are also necessary in making camp RUN! You can send donations to Camp Phillip at W9944 Buttercup Avenue, Wautoma, WI 54982.**

REMINDER...DIVINE DINNERS

Do you know of an Immanuel member who could use some Christian love? Immanuel **Divine Dinners** is an active ongoing program. **Divine Dinners' purpose is to share Christian love through the giving of meals to members who may be ill, have a new baby, or are going through a difficult time.**

We will be contacting people to donate meals through the TAG survey (Time and Gifts). If you'd like to be added to the volunteer list, please add your name to the binder in the back of the Gathering Room. If you know of someone who may need help, please let Pastor Sims, Ann Wilson (734-674-9251) or Andrea Dolan (715-220-1439) know.



Church Library News

You may stop in at the Immanuel church library at any time. It is located in our church basement. You will find books, music, & videos. Check out is self-service. ~Laura Rozoff, Church Librarian

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" 2 Peter 3:18

Fiction is a genre or category of literature. The definition of fiction is literature created from the imagination, not presented as fact, though it may be based on a true story or situation. Types of literature in the Christian fiction genre include Historical fiction, Contemporary romance, Amish, Drama, Action/Adventure, Romance and fantasy. We are blessed to have many books in our library that represent all of these genre type. Here are just a few examples in each category:



- ◆ **Historical Fiction:** include books by Lynn Austin, Lauraine Snelling, Rachel and Robin Lee Hatcher, Janette Oke, Jody Hedlund, Michael Phillips, and Judith Pella, to name a few.
- ◆ **Contemporary Romance:** we have such authors as Francis Rivers, Jan Karon, and Karen Kingsbury.
- ◆ **Amish Fiction:** many books by Bev Lewis and Wanda Brunstetter books, but, did you know Kathleen Fuller, Shelley Shepard Gray, and Beth Wiseman also write Amish Fiction?
- ◆ **Drama Fiction** comes in series. *The Mark of the Lion* is a drama series by Francine Rivers, as are the *"Refiner's Fire"* series by Lynn Austin, and the *"Kensington Chronicles"* series by Lori Wick.
- ◆ **Action/Adventure** selections include the *"Zion Covenant"* series by Brodie and Brock Theone or the Davis Bunn series *Storm Syrell*.
- ◆ **Romance Fiction** include authors Judith Miller, Irene Hannon, Angela Hunt, and Jody Hedlund.
- ◆ **Fantasy Fiction** include authors C.S. Lewis and Frank Peretti.

There are many other authors and books not mentioned and some authors write in a number of these categories. As the summer winds down don't forget to have a look in your Church Library.

Have a blessed summer and start to the new school year!
~ Laura Rozoff

Member News



The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
James 5:16

PLEASE **PRAY** FOR:

- † **Our Called Workers**—for blessings on them as they continue to serve us and our children
- † **Students, Parents, & Teachers**—for blessings on the upcoming school year

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Jordy Matthew Leicht (7/14/19)
son of Matthew & Jana Leicht

Weddings

Megan Krizek and Jacob Schnell (7/13/19)

Funerals

Peter Polster—June 8, 2019
Howard Schmill—June 24, 2019

Adult Confirmands

Megan Krizek, Jacob Schnell, Keenan Johnson,
Chelsea Loritz, Erik Taddy, Nicole Pleasants

Gifts and Memorials

- ♥ \$500 School Improvements



Serving Our Lord

2019 Church Council

In order that we might keep the best line of communications open between the church leaders and the rest of the congregation, we publish the names of the current Church Council in the newsletter. This will provide you with a list of people to contact if you have any questions regarding anything happening in our ministry. You may also use the following e-mail address to contact the Council as a whole: council@ilutheran.org. (One e-mail sent to that address reaches all the Council members with e-mail.)

- Larry Verlinden**, President
- Reed Kabelowsky**, Secretary
- Matthew Strathmann**, Treasurer
- Russ Vogt**, Elders
- Gary Markowski**, Financial Secretary
- Mitch Geissler**, Family Ministry
- Ron Nicklaus**, Evangelism
- Dan Smith**, Property
- Tim Lindloff**, Board of Education

AUGUST

8/04/2019

- 8:00 AM—Nick & Barb Nitka
- 10:30 AM—Larry & Linda Verlinden

8/11/2019

- 8:00 AM—Mark & Joanne Gaedtke
- 10:30 AM—Fred & Barbara Heiderich

8/18/2019

- 8:00 AM—Tony & Sally Dick
- 10:30 AM—Karen Kehl

8/25/2019

- 8:00 AM—Robert & Susan Kempfert
- 10:30 AM—Judy Fuerbringer & Karen Kehl



**Greeters
Schedule**

USHERS

THIS MONTH

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8/01/2019 Team 12—6:30 PM | 8/18/2019 Early—Team 4 |
| | 8/18/2019 Late—Team 8 |
| 8/04/2019 Early—Team 2 | 8/22/2019 Team 11—6:30 PM |
| 8/04/2019 Late—Team 6 | |
| 8/08/2019 Team 9—6:30 PM | 8/25/2019 Early—Team 1 |
| | 8/25/2019 Late—Team 5 |
| 8/11/2019 Early—Team 3 | 8/29/2019 Team 12—6:30 PM |
| 8/11/2019 Late—Team 7 | |
| 8/15/2019 Team 10—6:30 PM | |



IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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www.ilutheran.org

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SHARE JESUS
WITH A FRIEND

August 2019

The Newsletter Staff

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Worship & Contact Information

Worship Schedule

Thursdays: 6:30 PM
Sundays: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Devotional Service

Friday, August 30th —11:00 AM

Pastoral Staff

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† **Church Office—684-3404**
church@ilutheran.org

Immanuel Lutheran School

Preschool to Grade 8

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