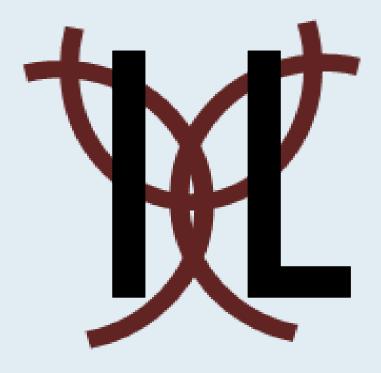
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023



1002 Powell Avenue Erie PA 16505

814-833-4062

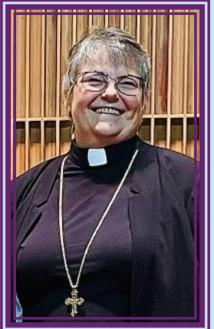
CELEBRATING NEW LIFE, NEW BEGINNINGS!!



* In this issue *

- 1. From The Pastor's Desk
- 2. School Supply Drive & Erie Give Day Appreciation
- 3. Tree Trimming & The Grind: Cleaning Up Our Grounds
- 4. Picnic Praise
- 5. Sunny Outside Service
- 6. Seawolves Game: A Grand Slam
- 7. 1028 Powell: A Disaster of Biblical Proportions

- 8. Permanent Entertainment Sale
- 9. Lutheran Disaster Response: Maui Collection
- 10. Worship & Music
- 11. Christian Education
- 12. Prayer List
- 13. Green Corner– Green Burial
- 14. Worship Leaders for September
- 15. Celebrations of Life & Love



Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk

I was guided to write about Balaam's donkey this month. The story is found in the book of Numbers, one that most people skip reading because it gives a very detailed account of genealogy in the first few chapters. It can be difficult to read, and not very interesting. However, hidden in Numbers 22-24 there is a story of Balak, Balaam, and Balaam's donkey.

The nomadic nation of Israel had camped outside of Moab of which Balak was king. In fear of these newcomers Balak summoned Balaam to cast a curse on the Israelite people. Balaam said he would consult with the LORD and get back to him with God's answer. God's response was not to curse the Israelis. He sent that message to Balak however Balak would not accept it and urged Balaam to come to him.

Balaam refused to go against the message God had given him, no matter how much wealth and honor Balak offered, but he said he would again consult with the LORD. God told Balaam to go ahead and go with the men who had come to take him to Balak but not to do anything other than what God instructed him to do. So Balaam saddled his donkey and went with the offi-

cials to Moab. God was not happy with the situation, so he sent an angel of the LORD to stop Balaam by standing in the middle of the road. Of course Balaam could not see the angel, but his donkey could.

At first sight the donkey was frightened and ran off into the field. Balaam, not knowing why his donkey headed off the road into the field punished him and guided him back onto the road. The next sighting of the angel of the LORD was next to a wall and the donkey pushed against the wall scrapping Balaam's foot against the wall. Again, Balaam punished the donkey and started on the road again. Finally the angel of the LORD trapped the donkey in a narrow place where there was no turning to the right or to the left. The donkey lay down with Balaam still on his back. This time Balaam was very angry, and he punished the donkey. At this the LORD opened the donkey's mouth asking why he was so harsh with him. Balaam said it is because you have made a fool of me. The donkey reasoned with Balaam, asking if he, the donkey, was in a habit of treating Balaam in such a way to which Balaam replied no. After this conversation the LORD opened Balaam's eyes to the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand.

The angel also asked Balaam why he had punished his donkey and told him to go on with his journey but not to speak anything that God hadn't directed him to speak. Balaam completed his journey and was met by Balak. Balaam again spoke with the LORD and was told not to curse the Israelites but to bless them. That angered Balak, and he again asked him to curse the Israelites. Again Balaam spoke with God and God told him to tell Balak that once the Israelites were blessed the blessing could not be revoked. Again Balak bulked and wanted Balaam to contact God again, which Balaam did, and again he received the same message from God to bless the Israelites and not to curse them. Of course Balak was angered but Balaam returned home.

What does this incredible story of a talking donkey have to do with our life today? I believe it relays the message that we are not to turn against God even when the world is offering riches and status, even when a person is pressuring you to do their will instead of God's will. The easiest way to determine if it is God's will is to ask if in following the task before you will another person be harmed? Is the task asked of you done out of retaliation or fear, or is it done out of compassion? By prayerfully answering these questions you will follow God's will in your life.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this article or anything else that is on your mind. I am normally in the office Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., call before you come to make sure I'm in the office (814-833-4062), or you can call my cell phone anytime (724-557-2386) and we can make arrangements to meet.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Karen You can find Pastor Karen's latest sermons in print on our webpage here

http://www.ilc-erie.org/worship-.html and the video is posted to our Facebook page

School Supply Drive & Erie Give Day Appreciation



The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank all those who donated school supplies. We collected over 200 packs of school supplies including highlighters, dry erase markers, tissues, rulers, markers, glue, scissors, crayons, pencils, colored pencils, notebooks, paper, folders, erasers, flashcards, chalk and miscellaneous office supplies. Supplies will be donated to Harding Elementary School and Alli Lee, a member that teaches in Fairview. Thank you for your generosity!



Immanuel Lutheran would like to extend a very special Thank You to everyone who took their time, and resources, to donate during Erie Gives Day. With your help, Immanuel was able to raise \$12,400, plus Erie Gives Bonus Bucks. These funds help to ensure our church remains the beautiful place of worship we all love.

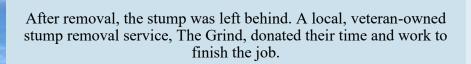
If you donated and would like your donation designated to a specific fund here at the church, i.e. The Boiler Fund, Sunday School, Communion, etc., please email or call the office and Delani will ensure donations are sent to the correct fund.

Tree Trimming & The Grind: Cleaning Up Our Grounds

Lately, there has been a lot of happening with the landscape around Immanuel. During one of the recent strong storms, a large branch broke off a tree lining the parking lot. The loose limb was left hanging over

several parking spots, posing a potential parking hazard. Luckily, Bob Dorler, Rick Kuntz and Bill Redditt volunteered to remove the damaged remains. Bill also removed a large rotting tree from in front of Immanuel. The Lee and Feiler families donated funds to replace the tree with a

pink Dogwood, in memory of Char. We appreciate all of your help.



If you have any stump removal needs, be sure to contact The Grind Stump Removal Service. They're located in Fairview, PA and service many of the areas surrounding Erie County. You can reach them by phone at (814) 566-6595 or email TheGrindStumpRemoval@gmail.com





Picnic Praise

The Church Picnic was a fun-filled event for all who attended. The weather was beautiful, the company was wonderful and the Eckman's famous fries were delicious!

Immanuel Lutheran's FOG Committee would like to thank everyone who continues to make this annual event so special, year after year.





Sunny Outside Service

Our outside service was nothing short of spectacular. We were blessed with beautiful, breezy weather and an abundance of smiling faces. This was our first year hosting the worship service in the parking lot, as well as our first time using the portable organ and handheld microphones. Thank you to Bryan Timm and Michael Patterson for setting up chairs and equipment outside for the service.







Seawolves Game: A Grand Slam

On August 22, Immanuel Lutheran went out to the ball game! Members were able to join Pastor Karen and her husband, Bill, at an Erie Seawolves baseball game. The Seawolves took on the Bowie Baysox, the first of a six-game series against the team and a twelve-game homestand. With seats located just behind third base, members were able to catch every bit of the highflying excitement. While it was a rough night for the Seawolves, suffering a blowout 0-5 loss against the Baysox, all our attendees had a great time.









1028 Powell: A Disaster of Biblical Proportions

A valuable asset to Immanuel are our two rental houses. The rental houses provide a stable revenue to our church operations and assist in paying toward the salaries of our staff, our largest expense. We are grateful to our past leadership and members for allowing the purchase of these assets on Powell Avenue and West 10th Street.

Until the present, we have been fortunate that they have required very little maintenance and upkeep. On May 31st this year, we were notified by our Powell Ave. tenant of four issues: a sewer backup, the air conditioner not working, a leak from the refrigerator, and the gas stove top not working. All of the above did not happen in one day, but were reported on the same day.

After initial inspection it was discovered the line to the ice maker had cracked and was leaking into the walls, floor and basement for several months. The air conditioner required a new capacitor and the sewer was snaked out, both were fixed within hours of being reported. The stove top was inspected and was not repairable.

The water damage caused significant moisture and mold throughout the rental unit. Immanuel's insurance company, Church Mutual, recommended we use ServPro for mitigation of the mold and moisture and the tenant was asked to move to alternate housing. ServPro removed walls due to saturation halfway up the walls, three layers of flooring in the kitchen, hardwood flooring in the dining room, baseboards and paneling to the basement stairs. The ServPro bill totaled \$8,086.38. The total insurance claim was \$24,472.64, including the \$1,000 deductible. We considered the rental unit inhabitable, due to removal of walls and flooring and there was no access to the kitchen.

The lease allowed for a five-day Notice to Quit and the lease was terminated with the tenant as of June 29. The tenant used Northwest legal services and the Attorney General to object to the termination. Under the representation of Steadman Law Firm, the locks were changed and we allowed a few more days for the tenant to remove items under our supervision.

The Property Committee met and proposed to do a much needed renovation on the unit's bathroom and kitchen along with the insurance claim damages, since we were looking at contractors booking six months out and not receiving income for the rental unit.

During our initial inspection it was discovered the tenant had been smoking in the non-smoking unit and caused smoke damage to the walls, windows, cabinets, fixtures, etc. The tenant vacated on July 9th and left the unit filthy and full of personal items, trash, clothes, shelves, books, furniture, adjustable bed and other various items.

Phase 1 began by a few volunteer members removing nearly all the items without the use of a trash hauler. After the unit was emptied, volunteers were solicited and Phase 2 started and we cleaned and repainted the ceilings and walls. We were also able to gut the bathroom, saving Immanuel money and time for the contractor. Outdoor tasks, such as weeding, weed control, cutting shrubs and lawn mowing have also taken place.

We are currently awaiting Phase 3. It is tentatively scheduled to begin August 30th, by contractor Clarks Glass and Home Improvements. All cabinetry and fixtures have been purchased and delivered. Appliances have been ordered and are awaiting delivery.

I would like to personally thank our dedicated volunteers who have donated their time and talents to accomplish this large task and save Immanuel money. Without many hands we would not have been able to accomplish as much.

Many thanks to Bill & Debbie Redditt, Rick & Jen Kuntz, Rick & Brenda Durst, Bob Dorler, Cindy & Dave Eckman, Wally Coughlin, Dave Mays, and Bryan Timm for their assistance and help!





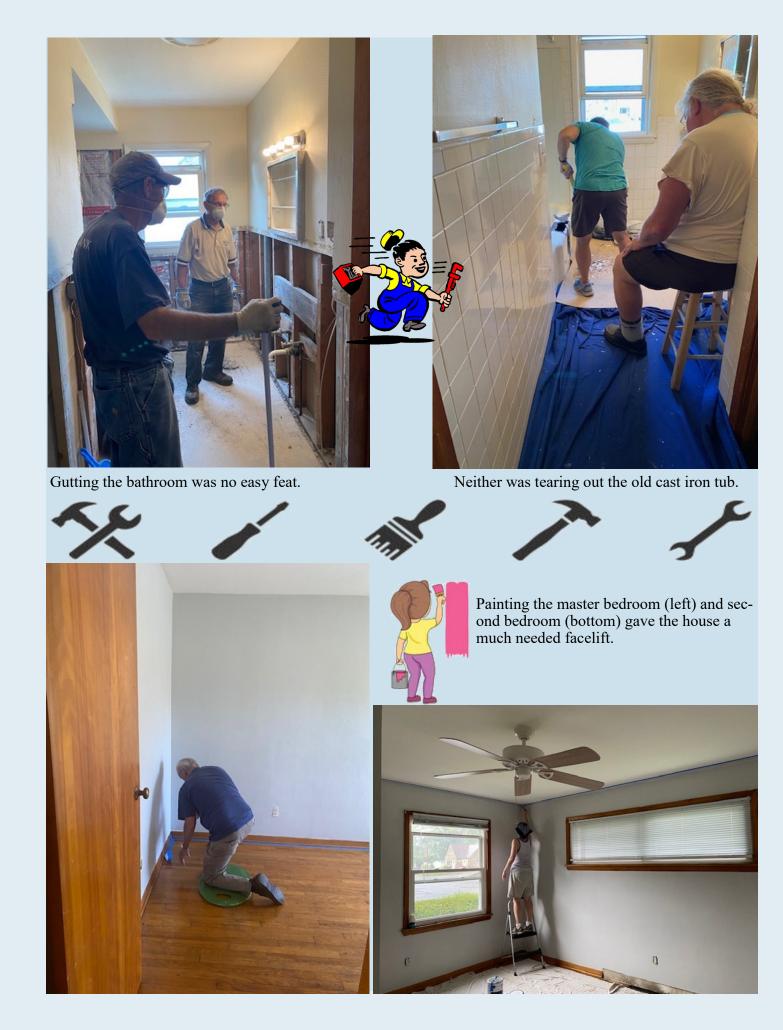
These are just some of the items that had to be removed from the property...







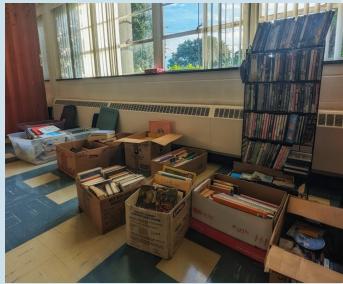
In order to make way for new things, like the cabinets (seen being delivered, left)



Permanent Entertainment Sale

Are you looking for an interesting new read? Wanting to add to your children's or grandchildren's library? Maybe, you'd like to learn a new hobby; drawing or writing, perhaps? Do crossword puzzles, word games or DVDs sound more intriguing to you? Whatever style of entertainment you prefer, chances are, Immanuel has something for you at our *NEW* Permanent Entertainment Sale.





Thanks in large part to Bill & Debbie Redditt, and the team who helped clean 1028 Powell, many, many, *many* different forms of media were able to be rescued and cleaned up for resale. Rather than wait for Immanuel's annual Book and Bake Sale during Election Day, Cindy Eckman had the brilliant idea to assemble a continuous sale. She has taken it upon herself to layout and arrange items in an orderly fashion.

If you are interested in perusing the vast selection, you can find the sale located in the room directly across the hall from the Office. The Permanent Entertainment Sale will be open during Office Hours and Worship on Sundays.

Most books and DVDs are just \$1. There is a selection of large, hardback books in great condition selling for \$5. Many of these book specialize in the art and animation of Disney films. If you, or someone special, has a favorite Disney movie, chances are there's a book to dive even deeper into the tale.

Monies can be placed in the Shiny Red Box on the windowsill.





Lutheran Disaster Response: Maui Collection

As many are aware, beginning on August 8th, Maui, one of Hawaii's most beautiful and densely populated islands, was ravaged by wildfires. There was very little warning time, leading to panic and intense confusion among residents of this usual paradise. Locals began fleeing to escape the flames, attempting to save children, pets and neighbors along the way.



Hundreds lost their lives. Thousands upon thousands are completely devastated, left with nothing more than their current clothing. The town of Lahaina alone, where fires began, reported early estimates of over 2,700 homes destroyed.

Lutheran Disaster Response, an organization grounded in Lutheran theology, sharing God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world, has organized a collection fund for Maui.



Due to the island location and everchanging hurricane weather, getting resources to and from Maui is nearly impossible at times.

The U.S. Coast Guard, Hawaii's National Guard and active-duty forces on the island have all been a great resource in aiding the locals. Right now, the best way you can help is by making a financial donation. It provides immediate funds to supply the most crucial resources.

The Social Ministry Committee at Immanuel encourages anyone that would like to assist those suffering from wildfires in Hawaii, or other places in the US, to donate as you are able to Lutheran Disaster Response.

There are many ways you can donate:

Drop off at Immanuel, during Worship or office hours, in an envelope marked LDR Wildfires.

Mail checks or money orders directly to: Lutheran Disaster Response P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Donate over the phone by calling: 800-638-3522 Monday through Friday 9:00 am—6:00 pm

Go online to: www.elca.org and click "GIVE NOW" on the Wildfire Relief banner.



ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTU-ARY CANDLE SIGN-UP

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN POSTING OUR ALTAR FLOWER AND SANCTUARY CANDLE SIGN-UP SHEETS IF YOU WOULD CARE TO SPONSOR EITHER OR BOTH IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE -- IT WILL BE NOTED IN OUR WORSHIP BULLETIN.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATHY'S FLOWER SHOPPE, WHO HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE FLOW-ERS FOR US FOR MANY YEARS HAS HAD TO INCREASE PRICES SO FLOWERS WILL BE \$36/WK – SANCTUARY CANDLE REMAINS AT \$5/WK. WHEN PAYMENT IS MADE, PLEASE INCLUDE THIS NEW AMOUNT IN YOUR PAY-MENT STARTING THIS MONTH! YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO BRING IN YOUR OWN PLANTS/ FLOWERS FROM YOUR GAR-DEN, ETC.

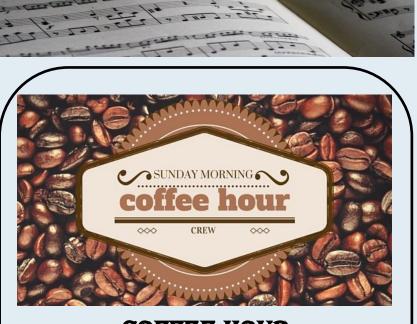


Please join us for worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. either indoors or in our drive-in services.



Church Choir Begins September 7th at 7:15 pm! New Members are encouraged and welcomed. If you're interested, contact Bryan Timm

timmbryan@hotmail.com



COFFEE HOUR 1[™] SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH. Stop by the lounge after

church service. The Eckman's will be hosting.

Christian Education



Immanuel Lutheran is looking for people interested in learning to Usher Or Assist as Worship Leaders during Sunday Service.

To learn more about becoming an Assistant Worship Leader, please contact Pastor Karen

Email: pastorkaren.immanuel@gmail.com Phone: (724) 557-2386



If you are interested in becoming an Usher, please contact Bob Dorler

> Email: Dorlerr@yahoo.com Phone: (814) 833-2719

During our **September 10th** Worship Service, we will host a special Rally Day; a kickoff to resuming weekly Sunday School classes.

We will show appreciation to our teachers, without whom Sunday School would not be able to continue.

We offer special recognition and gratitude to Janice Kreger, as she continues in over 50 years of participation with the Christian Education department. Her decades of influence have aided countless youth on their journey to find and keep God in their hearts.



Join Pastor Karen for Bible Study

Starting **Tuesday, October 10th,** from **6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**, Pastor Karen will host a bible study on the book, "He Leads Me Along Life's Journey," By Marie Cozad. Pastor will supply the book.

More information can be found by the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main hall.



get involved& be the church



If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.

If you would like home communion or a copy of our newsletter, please contact the office.



Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card.

The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office.

KEEP IN PRAYER: Charlotte Desanti **Dolly Barton** Julia – Cindy Geddes' Niece Wally and Barb Coughlin Pastor Owen Rhodes and family MaryAnn Long and Russ Long Penney Maloney Denise Arnold and her sister, Lana Huhn The Botwright family Ian Byrne **Connie Cooper** Mary Hauser's sister - Alice Tillotson Jim and Lorraine Hornaman **Kyle Husted** Carol and Gordon Ketchel Patrick Lewis-friend of Sandy Kocur, Sandy's cousin - Scott Farr Sandy's close friend's son-in-law, John **Bishop Michael Lozano Diane McGranor** Zach Middaugh Kathy - friend of Lori Nemenz Carole Rickrode **Bob and Sharon Roemer** All of our members & friends who are grieving; Who are in nursing homes; All who are ill at home

We pray for those in the military: Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew) Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson – serving stateside now per an update from Ann Neimann).

Member Update: Sharon Roemer is now a resident of Fairview Manor. Mailing address: 900 Manchester Road, Fairview, PA 16415 Your prayers & cards are appreciated.

Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

Fall is an excellent time to plant trees, and it's also a good time to rescue smaller tree and shrub seedling volunteers like oaks and maples now sprouting in various flower beds and waste areas all around us so this project can be free or very inexpensive if you plant nuts and seeds to increase the amount of vegetation around you and provide food for wildlife. Do ask homeowners before you uproot seedlings in flowerbeds other than your own. Or you can purchase seedlings or larger trees to plant. God helps us with the watering in fall and winter. If you have concerns about plants being dry, don't hesitate to get out there and water them. Always use the best soil you can, and that may mean that the soil at the surface should go into the hole with the roots. Always use something as mulch, to hold moisture in the soil while trying not to touch the little tree with mulch. I even recycle old clothes as mulch, as long as the tree is in an established garden bed, absolutely not where a lawnmower would touch the fabric. That's an instant tragedy! Mowed grass is an excellent free mulch and improves soil as well. Protect the new seedlings from chewing animals. I cage all new trees until leaves and small branches are taller than me, beyond where deer can reach. It's amazing how fast trees grow, some far more than a foot a year! Planting trees around houses can lower temperatures in the yard and in the house as well, if they are properly sited. I have whole house air conditioning but have had no need to use it for years. The trees make the difference. Do some research, looking for what conditions your seedlings will need- sun or shade, dry or damp conditions. Conifer trees and shrubs on the north and northwest side of a house block cold winter winds and help to cool the area around them in summer. Deciduous summer shade trees should be planted on the west or east side of houses (mine are on the west). When the leaves fall, the sun can help heat the house in the winter. Reuse your leaves as mulch to feed the soil. Consider planting trees back far enough from houses to remove concerns of adult trees falling on houses. After living here 46 years, most of the thousands of trees I've planted are adult now. But I plant trees and nuts every year. It is a true blessing to feel the difference in air temperature and wind currents these trees make now, both in and out of the house. Please, be a blessing to God's world and plant for our future.

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
9/3/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Cindy Geddes	Cindy Geddes
9/10/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Cindy Eckman
9/17/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Bob Dorler
9/24/23 9:30 AM.	Kostur	Cindy Geddes	Cindy Geddes



Lectors:

Altar Guild: Debbie Madurski Counters: Cindy Geddes & Barb Coughlin Ushers: Ushers as assigned by B. Dorler

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment – please find an alternate & notify the church office.

Remember to adjust microphone towards you & speak into it for all to hear. We continue to offer our services indoor or via drive-in service so if you can't be with us in person in the church, join us in our parking lots or in the immediate vicinity of the church and tune to 93.7 on your FM dial each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. You can also listen via speaker in our Nursery or Kindergarten Rooms.



Celebrations of September Life and Love



9/3 Kelly Hunter
9/5 Madison Penpek
9/11 Claudia Skerlong
9/11 Airi Suokas
9/13 Elizabeth Cool
9/13 Victoria Cool
9/15 Summer Feiler
9/15 Nicholas McCracken
9/15 Thomas Stewart
9/23 Patrick Harmle
9/27 Beth Griffin
9/28 Denise Arnold
9/28 Steven Saylor
9/29 Susan Pfeiffer



Wedding Anniversaries

9/4 Barbara & Walter Coughlin9/22 Michael & Brittany Redditt



Capital Campaign - Boiler:

Funds for the boiler campaign currently show \$24,887.78 toward our goal of \$58,803.

>>>> //otes ****

Pennies for Poverty collection is an ongoing effort in support of the Women of the ELCA – donations welcome in the Donation Center canister.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY AT IMMANUEL

IF IN NEED – TAKE SOMETHING IF YOU CAN SHARE - LEAVE SOMETHING

Feel free to bring items to church office & we will make sure they get in the pantry for you.

September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 am Worship 10:30 Coffee hour Quarter Sunday	Labor Day	AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Church Choir Begins 7:15 pm	AA 7:30 pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Worship RALLY DAY!	Quilters 9:30 am Flute Choir 7pm	AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Church Choir 7:15 pm	AA 7:30 pm	
Sunday School Begins						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Worship Sunday School	Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Cho- rus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Church Choir 7:15 pm	AA 7:30 pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Worship Sunday School	Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Cho- rus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	Church Choir 7:15 pm	AA 7:30 pm	



Immanuel Church Office 814-833-4062 Hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:00am—1:00 pm. immluthch@verizon.net

Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062 or Emergency #: 724-557-2386 Pastor's Office Hours – Tues & Thurs.9:30am-2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin Organist/Music Director: Bryan Timm Admin. Ofc.: Delani Kinzig

Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor Kostur

Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres:Debbie Redditt 814-449-1855 VP:Bob Dorler 814-833-2719 Sec.:D. Madurski 814-774-3590 Fin. Sec.:C.Geddes 814-734-1286 Treasurer: Bill Redditt

Additional Council Members

Cindy Eckman, George Pfeiffer, Sally Leubin, Cindy Geddes, Mary Hauser



Church Council Committees

We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!! Council usually meets the 2nd Sunday of the month



Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on <u>Facebook</u> Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the church calendar, newsletter or annual report? Check out our website <u>http://www.ilc-erie.org/</u>

WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE NEWS NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE ERIE TIMES NEWS

Fellowship, Outreach & Growth Council liaisons: Sally Leubin & Cindy Eckman COFFEE HOUR 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY SOUP COOK BOOKET AVAILABLE

> Finance Council liaison: George Pfeiffer ANNUAL AUDIT

> > **Property**

Council liaison: Bob Dorler Committee Chair: vacant FACILITY MAINTENANCE –OUTSIDE OUTLETS IN-OPERABLE, RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE – BATHROOM UPDATE POWELL AVE. ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

> Stewardship Council liaison: Cindy Geddes

Social Ministry Committee Council liaison: Debbie Madurski – Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

> Worship & Music Council liaison: Debbie Redditt Chair: Sue Pfeiffer

W&M COMMITTEE MTG: To Be Announced DRIVE-IN AND INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES 9:30 A.M.