

# Immanuel Messenger

GOD WITH US

September 2020

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*“There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He said, ‘I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.’” – 1 Kings 19:9-10*

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I have always been fascinated by this story from the life of the prophet Elijah. I am fascinated because I think it is a story that we can all relate to, at least in some way. First, a little bit of background is important. The passage above comes directly after Elijah's interaction with the 450 prophets of Baal. In the course of this interaction, both parties set up offerings to be burnt by their god, and it had been agreed upon that the god who sent fire down to consume the offering was the one, true God. You obviously know where this is going, even if you've never heard the story before. The prophets of Baal weep and lament, cutting themselves in servitude to the false god and still nothing happens. Afterward Elijah has his offering soaked in water and the Lord sent down an all-consuming fire to burn up not only his offering, but that of the prophets of the false god Baal. What a mighty and awesome deed! Elijah then slaughters the prophets of Baal at the Kishon brook. Talk about a great victory.

So why then do we see, in the above quoted portion of Scripture, Elijah's deep lamentation that he is left all alone? First, allow me to ask you a question that I hope you will take some time to think about. Has your life as a Christian always been an easy one? I think most, if not all, of us are able to say that it certainly is not easy to live in this world as a Christian. Though we see the Lord's great and mighty wonders every Lord's Day when we come to His house and receive the blessed absolution, when we are confronted with the trials and temptations that inevitably assault and assail us in our lives, how quick we are to lament about the fact that we have been left alone and all but abandoned to face them ourselves!

Elijah witnessed the great and powerful works of the hand of the God whom he served, yet when Jezebel threatens to take his life, he flees from her as though his God is like the false god Baal who was unable to help or save those who followed him. My friends, we do not serve a God who is deaf to our cries for mercy. We do not serve a God who is not active in our lives. We do not serve a God who does not understand our needs in this life. We do not serve a God who does not understand what it is to be tempted as we are.

Just as Elijah did, we serve a God who is mighty and powerful; the God who created and, moreover, sustains, all things. Ours is the God who not only created the world, but saved it by shedding His very own blood for the life of the world and all who live in it. Our God is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, who was tempted as we are in every way, and yet was without sin in order that His sacrifice of body and blood would be a sufficient price to pay the debt that we own in our sin.

So my dear friends, as you read this newsletter this week, know that you are prayed for. Know that your prayers, whatever they may be, are heard by the God who has given you your “reason and all [your] senses, and still takes care of them”, and He will never keep from you anything that is beneficial for you and your salvation. Though it may seem as if you are all alone in your plight, and though it may feel like the whole world stands against you, I pray that you will always take heart in the promises of your Lord to be with you and sustain you in all of your trials and temptations. If ever you need them, may you always remember the words of that great hymn “A Mighty Fortress”. “*Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us, we tremble not, we fear no ill; they cannot overpower us. This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will, he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done; one little word can fell him.*” That Word is Christ, He will, and indeed already has, won the victory over sin, death, and the devil for each and every one of you in the blessed sacrifice of His body and blood on the cross. May this be your eternal hope and comfort in your times of want, and may they be the words of praise on your lips each and every day! Amen.

In Christ,

*Pastor Callahan*

## SPECIAL DATES IN SEPTEMBER:

- LWML Mite Collection, **Sept. 6**
- Labor Day, **Sept. 7**
- Patriot Day, **Sept. 11**
- LWML Fall Rally, **Sept. 15**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Autumn, **Sept. 22**



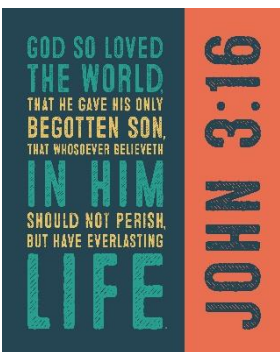
**HELP US CARE FOR YOU:** *Your well-being is important to us and we want to pray for you!* When you or a family member is hospitalized, we want to serve you with prayers and visits. Unfortunately, we are no longer notified by the hospital; please call the church office when you have any medical/surgical procedure or in any time of spiritual need at **217-442-5675**.



**Prayer requests:** we are certainly pleased to pray for your (non-member) family and friends alongside our Immanuel members. Use keep us informed of their needs.

**GIFT (SCRIP) CARDS:** The next Scrip order is due to the church office by **9 am on Monday, Sept. 14**. *Please note the new time.* These gift cards make excellent gifts! There are more vendors available than what is listed on the order form; you can see a full list of vendors at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) or on the hall bulletin board. Write the name of the vendor, denomination of the gift card, number of cards wanted, and total amount on a blank line of the order form. This order will be available for pickup on **Sept. 20** or in the church office after that. Cards for most local fast food and chain restaurants (with varying rates of profit to the church), plus Meijer and Wal-Mart are kept in stock. You can get them at the church office anytime.

**THE BEST MEDICINE:** Near the end of his life,



Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, *"My best prescription for head and heart is that 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him*

*should not perish, but have everlasting life.'*" That Bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. *"What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity,"* he said of John 3:16. *"It is the Bible itself!"* After repeating the words of that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, *"They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!"*

**LUTHERAN LEGACY:** *I would like to give money to our church, but how can I make sure that the gift will be lasting?* The church has two endowment funds (one for the general fund and one for building and grounds). We also have funds for the school. To donate directly to Lutheran Legacy, go online to [lutheranlegacyfoundation.org](http://lutheranlegacyfoundation.org) and click on the "funds" link on the top of the page, then on "churches" for Immanuel or "parochial schools" for ILS. The funds are listed in alphabetical order, scroll down until you find Immanuel in Danville and click on the "donate" button to the right. You can choose to donate by credit card or check. If you do not have a computer, simply pick up a donation form from information table in the hall and mail a check. Please contact Kim in the church office with questions.

**FOOD PANTRY:** Our Immanuel Food Pantry is asking for your help providing non-perishable and nutritious items for the food baskets. Please bring a donation of one (or more!) of the staple items to include in each basket: peanut butter and jelly, cereal, and canned fruits. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Funds are used to restock the shelves when needed, and provides perishable items, such as milk, eggs, and bread, to families in our community. *Thank you!*

**THRIVENT MEMBERS:** Thrivent Action Teams make it easy to live generously. It starts with a simple question: *"Who can I help and how?"* You can help Immanuel! There are many events and activities right here in our church and school that could benefit from an Action Team. Thrivent will donate up to \$250 to jumpstart a fundraiser, service project, or event of your choice. Use one to help the Anniversary Committee or help the food pantry stock their shelves. You get two per year – don't let them go to waste! Sue Heidle can help you get started with an Action Team today!

**CHOIR AND HANDBELLS:** We're excited to invite our Handbells ringers to join us for our first practice of the year on Wednesday, **Sept. 9**. We'll meet at 6:15 pm in the balcony. The tables will be spaced out to maintain our distance. We'll see you then! Our Choir will not meet at this time, due to recommendations regarding singing in close proximity to one another. However, if anyone would like to sing a solo sometime, please get in touch with Tom Fricke so that we can work include you in our worship services.



**Trust in *His* timing, rely on *His* promises, wait for *His* answers, believe in *His* miracles, rejoice in *His* goodness, and relax in *His* presence.**

## RALLY DAY IS COMING! *We are bringing everyone together for Rally Day!*



when we refocus on the work of our Sunday School and Bible Class program. And our Rally Day service will have a special touch this year, as well. We are planning to hold our Rally Day service **outside** under

a tent on Sunday, **Sept. 13** at 8:30 am. This way, we can have everyone together in **one service** that Sunday. Chairs will be available, or you can bring your own lawn chairs. We will have to still abide with social distancing requirements, and masks would be recommended, but it will be a chance for all of us to be together as a church family. Our ILS and Sunday School teachers will be commissioned, and Bibles and Catechisms will be distributed. Parents, if you have a child entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade 5<sup>th</sup> grade, please call the church office so we can prepare a Bible or Catechism for them. Before you leave, make sure to grab lunch to go! As a fundraiser, we are offering a \$5.00 chili lunch to go. The menu includes chili, cheese, crackers, cornbread, and a dessert. YUM! We look forward to this special service, and hope you'll be able to attend as we rally around God's Word and get back to Sunday School and Bible Class!

**WOMEN'S GUILD** meetings will resume in September on Tuesday, **Sept. 8**, at 6:30 pm following safe meeting practices. On the agenda will be the upcoming Fall Rally here at Immanuel on the 15th, our Bazaar, and the yearly budget. Our in-gathering for September is for the Humane Society. At this time, they are in need of paper towels, clumping cat litter, bleach, laundry detergent, and dryer sheets or softener. Place these items in the marked tote next to our ongoing collection of empty medicine bottle for Matthew 25 Ministries. Our Guild Board will meet **Sept. 3** at 9am.

**2021 is an exciting year for our congregation!** We are celebrating the 125th anniversary of our congregation in March, as well as the 50th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for our church in October. Your anniversary committee is working on activities to make this a meaningful celebration with our goal to give God glory for what He has done and continues to do, here at Immanuel. Mark your calendars now to attend our 125th Anniversary service(s) on Sunday, **Mar. 8**. Stay tuned for more information on additional activities in our celebration. The anniversary committee will meet again on **Sept. 22** at 6 pm.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** LWML Sunday is **Oct. 4** – plan now to attend and wear purple!

**CENTRAL IL DISTRICT:** Twenty-three students (9 seminarians and 14 undergraduate students) were given grants by our CID Scholarship Committee this year. Thanks to substantial gifts given by the Seider Scholarship Endowment the CID LWML, the CID Extension Fund, and our CID Education Foundation, as well as many generous gifts given by faithful Lutherans like you, \$114,000 was awarded to help offset \$339,666 worth of unmet financial needs. Unmet needs are the responsibility of the student after scholarships, grants, parental assistance, expected congregational gifts, and the like are subtracted from the total cost of education. You can help ease their burden with your gift to the Central IL District Scholarship appeal. By indicating on your check or envelope you can choose to give all or part of your gift to go directly toward helping our 2020-2021 students by designation "CID Scholarship Fund" or you may choose to make a gift directly to the CID Endowment Fund. The income from the Endowment Fund will be used to make need-based grants to our students for years to come. A special envelope is available on the information table in the hallway to make a donation through the church or you may send your gift directly to the Central Illinois District Education Fund, 1850 N. Grand Avenue West, Springfield, IL 62702.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** for October through December are available in the Narthex. *Portals of Prayer* is great for personal devotions; with each devotion featuring a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer in an east-to-read format. Take one for you and a friend! We extend a big **THANK YOU** to our Women's Bible Study for continuing to support the Portals of Prayer!

**PHONE DIRECTORY:** We are publishing our new 2020-2021 Directory of Members and Friends soon. There have been a lot of changes since the last publication, so please be sure to take a new copy. We ask that you use it only for church communications, do not distribute it or use it for any solicitation purposes. We do encourage you to pray through the directory – pray for a page of families or one family per day!

**OUR FALL RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE** is



approaching fast – **Oct. 3** from 8 am to 12 pm. It's time for you to clean out your closets, declutter your home, and help Immanuel! You can bring in your donations anytime and put them in the

boys' locker room. Please consider volunteering with set up and sorting, during the sale, and clean up. Also, begin thinking about making some delicious goodies for the Bake Sale. Tell all your friends to shop our sale! *Thanks for your support!*



**WALK FOR LIFE:** The Women's Care Clinic's 2020 *Walk for Life* is **Sept. 26** at Lincoln Park in Danville! Register to walk, ask everyone you know to sponsor you (you'll be amazed at how many will say yes!), have your sponsors fill out their information on the pledge sheet (available on the information table), then turn it in on the day of the walk. You don't even have to collect any money, we'll handle the billing! Your support provides accurate information and compassionate support to over 450 men and women every year. Their always free, life-affirming services offer alternatives to abortion and include pregnancy testing, a 24-hour helpline, confidential counseling, ultrasounds, medical referrals, and clothing, food, and baby furniture for their little miracles. Questions? Call 431-0987 or visit [www.danvillewcc.org](http://www.danvillewcc.org).



**STEAK FRY:** Due to COVID, we are unable to hold our Steak Fry as usual, but plans are in the making so you can still enjoy a great meal support Immanuel's Capital Fund. A Drive-Thru Steak Fry is coming your way soon with a menu of steak, baked potato, green beans, and dessert! Watch for more information soon!



It is so good to be back in the classrooms! Students in the classrooms, hallways and on the playground are a great sight and sound. Preschool 3 and 4-year-old classes have started with the new Covid guidelines. The 2-year-old class will start later this fall when upgrades to the school are finished per DCFS regulations. We had our first Lunch on the Lawn where families could bring lunch in and enjoy the companies of their classmates. We want to thank you for all the support you have given to Immanuel Lutheran School. Please continue to pray for the school, staff and families. May God bless our year!

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY:

- The meeting was opened in prayer by Gail Garner.
- The previous minutes from the July 21 meeting, special BOD Meeting on July 26, and another special BOD Meeting on Aug. 5, and an electronic vote on Aug. 7 were all approved by unanimous consent.
- **New Business:**
  - Ken Kuhn was added to the Board of Elders.
  - Denny Hilton, Jerry Kennett, Scott Huckstadt, Ray Wittmann, Roger Seibert, Al Julian, Don DeMoss, Glen Natschke, Ron Reich, Dan Van

Hoveln, Bob Wakeley, and David Creek were added to the Board of Properties.

- Darlene Collins, Ray Wittmann, Tina Ammermann, and Carol Johnston were added to the Board of Worship.
- Shirley Kuhn, Donna Toms, Marcy Heeren, and Loretta Reifsteck were added to the Board of Evangelism.
- Annie Clark, Suzan Dahlenburg, Gail and Barb Garner, Shirley Kuhn, Marilyn Le Pere, Jan Mann, Chelsea Pratt, and Sharron Runyan were added to the Board of Parish Education.
- Employee health insurance options discussed. A motion to maintain Option C passed by unanimous consent.
- Confirmation and First Communion students will be ready by the end of August.
- The Anniversary Committee gave an update of plans made so far. Thrivent Action Teams needed.
- A motion was passed to close the current fiscal year and begin the new one with an audit by the finance committee.
- \$7,290.00 was approved for the installation of the school fire-rated doors.
- A new checkbook policy for boards and committees was discussed and approved.
- **Old business:**
  - No change in Worship plans. We are still in phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan.
  - The Call Committee issued the Call the Pastor Barlau. They will come for a visit and have some follow up questions.
- **Christian Education Committee:** In process of writing grants to cover work needed.
- **Finance Committee:** Lutheran Legacy and Church and School financial reports were reviewed.
- **Properties:** Asbestos inspection coming up in 2021.
- **Parish Education:** Rally Day is Sept. 13.
- **Youth:** Director is still needed.
- **Missions and Social Ministry:** Immanuel Cares and Food Pantry reports were reviewed.
- **Worship:** Pastor Callahan will be gone for 2 weeks. Pastoral coverage discussed.
- **Elders:** ILS family has requested to transfer to Immanuel from Trinity in Danville.
- **Next BOD Meeting:** Sept. 15 at 6:30 pm.

# A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

## What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



## What you do:

1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!

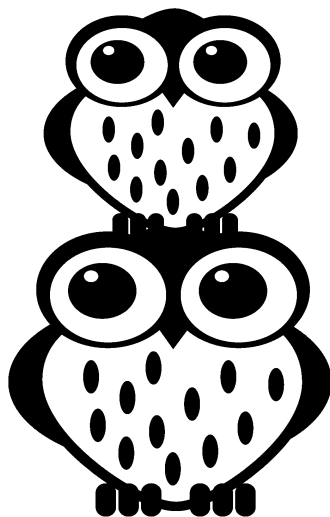
Doodle Art Alley ©



## WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

*Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.*



school	— ○ — — —
paper	— ○ —
wisdom	— — ○ —
read	— — — ○
play	— — — — —
learn	○ — — — —
grow	— ○ — — — —
pencils	— — — — —
pray	— ○ — —
art	— — — —
student	— — — ○ — —
kids	— — ○ — — —
apple	— — ○ — — —

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and successful.”

**JOSHUA 1:8, NIV**

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous



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- ➔ **Tune in any time online:**      [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org)

## **September 2020**

**September 6** (Psalm 32:1-7)

### **“Sinners, Listen to David!”**

*By Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary~Fort Wayne, IN*

We are sinners. That is the sad reality. But more can and must be said – listen to what David has to say!

**September 13** (Matthew 18:25-27)

### **“The Merciful Master”**

*Rev. Thomas Eggold, Emmanuel Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN*

As you consider your sin and struggle with the burden of guilt that we all bear, today's reading will bring you the promise that because of the atoning work of Jesus Christ, the Master has canceled your debt and welcomed you into His kingdom. And now, because of this unfathomable gift of grace you and I can forgive our brother or sister from the heart.

**September 20** (Matthew 20:15)

### **“Unfair!”**

*Rev. Shayne Jonker, Faith Lutheran Church~Roanoke, IN*

One of the toughest pills for religion to swallow is the idea that God justifies the ungodly and that our salvation at the world's end is not based on our works, our achievements and our accomplishments, but the sheer grace of God in His Son Jesus Christ who doles out a denarius of salvation to everyone alike, whether a lifelong Christian or a deathbed convert.

**September 27** (Matthew 21:23-27)

### **“By What Authority”**

*By Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church~New Haven, IN*

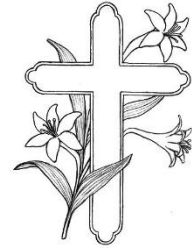
Jesus' authority comes from His Father. He uses that authority to bring eternal healing and life. Yet many challenge His divine authority even though He uses it for our benefit.



## Official Acts

### Deaths

Tony Johnson  
Carl Young



## Elders

Sept. Don DeMoss, Ken Kuhn

## Communion Assistants

Sept. 8:30 am 6 Josh Christensen  
5:00 pm 6 *Volunteer needed!*  
8:30 am 20 Roger Dahlenburg  
5:00 pm 20 *Volunteer needed!*

## Ushers

Sept. Team "C" (8:30 am & 5:00 pm)  
Capt. Kurt Thornsborough, Paul Pasquale, Don Page, Butch Buesing, and Gary West.

## Lay Readers

Sept	8:30 am	5:00 pm
6	Janet Terry	Carrie Farrell
13	Dwain Dixon	<i>No 5 pm Service</i>
20	Greg & Jennette Lane	David & Tina Ammermann
27	Marilyn Le Pere	Gail & Barb Garner

## Greeters

Sept. 6	Narthex	John & Marcy Heeren
	Chapel	Kitty Lee
13	Narthex	Charles Vollmer family
	Chapel	Charlotte Schendel
20	Narthex	Bill & Joyce Martin
	Chapel	Walter Harbison
27	Narthex	Gary & Sarah Stuhr
	Chapel	Carol Johnston

## Acolytes

Sept.	8:30 am	5:00 pm
6	Noah Christensen	Zachary Davis
13	Deegan Culotti	<i>No 5 pm Service</i>
20	Hannah Christensen	Josey Clem
27	Rhylie Beauvois	Kyla Culotti

## Altar Guild

Sept. Caralee Homann and Tina Ammermann

## Money Counters

Sept. Team "C" Mary Powell and Dianne Seibert

## Check Signers

Sept. Marilyn Le Pere and Wayne Mann

*\*If you are able to fill in any spots where a volunteer is needed, please call the church office at 442-5675. Thanks!*

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## Bible Quiz

Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

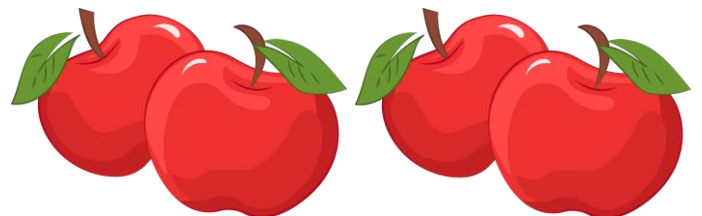
A. an abundance of frogs  
B. the Nile River turned to blood  
C. the collapse of the pyramids  
D. thick darkness



Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32.)



"Did I just hear you mumble, 'With the way you cook, I wish this was my "Last Supper."?'!"







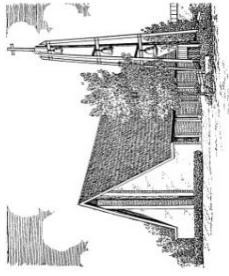
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**Worship Schedule**  
 Sundays  
 Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27  
 at 8:30  
 Sept. 6, 20 & 27  
 At 5:00 pm  
 Wednesdays  
 Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23  
 & 30 at 5:00 nm  
**worship**  
 WITH US

**Communion Schedule**  
 Sundays  
 Sept. 6 & 20  
 at 8:30 am & 5 pm  
 Wednesday  
 Sep. 30 at 5:00 pm

