

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
WEEKLY CALENDAR and ANNOUNCEMENTS
July 9, 2023

Monday – Friday office hours		8:00-12:00 pm
Sunday, July 9:	Divine Service	9:00 am
	Special Voters meeting	<i>following service</i>
Monday, July 10:	150 th Anniversary Meeting	6:30 pm
	Stephen Ministry	7:00 pm
Tuesday, July 11:	Church Council	6:30 pm
Sunday, July 16:	Divine Service	9:00 am
	Pancake Breakfast in church basement	10:00-11:30 am
	(fundraiser for 150 th Anniversary Celebration)	

Today we will celebrate and give glory to God for the completion of two major items in the life of Immanuel. The loan Immanuel took out to pay for the brick repairs of 2014-15 was paid off earlier this year, and the stained-glass window project was paid in full without taking out any loans. Praise the Lord!

Special Voters Meeting is called by the chairman, Butch Mussell, to be held following the service **today Sunday, July 9**. The purpose is to extend a call for an interim principal to handle administrative duties for the 2023-24 academic year. This will allow us to properly prepare for calling the next principal. Biographical information will be available at the meeting.

Free will offering for the LCMS National Offering will be gathered today. Your participation in the 2023 National Offering of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will help CHRIST crucified for ALL PEOPLE. English is not the primary language for an increasing number of our neighbors. The National Offering will fund the translation of introductory Christian resources into other languages, opening doors for witness and mercy and helping more people read the Good News. You can also contribute directly by going to <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/national-offering>.

Pancake Breakfast, July 16th, 10:00-11:30 am. Everyone is invited to a pancake breakfast with proceeds going to help with costs of the 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Today is the last day to vote on a theme for Immanuel's 150th Anniversary. Voting ballots are at the church entrances.

Sabbatical for Pastor Augustine – Beginning this Tuesday, Pastor will be taking a special leave of absence call a sabbatical. This will be from Tuesday, July 11 to Monday, July 31. Please come and support the guest pastors who will serve in his absence. Read on for more information.

What is a sabbatical? You may have heard the term in connection with higher education when a professor would take some time away from teaching to do research or further academic study. When it comes to the Church and the pastoral ministry, a sabbatical is an intentional time away from the rigors of the ministry to recharge the batteries by doing other activities, traveling, attend retreats, etc. to allow his soul and body to be renewed for ministry. Pastoral health studies indicate that pastors and their congregations are well served when a pastor can take a three-week to three-month leave every seven years.

Why is Pastor taking a sabbatical? Doesn't he get vacation? Studies of why pastors leave the ministry show that the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical demands of ministry can become overwhelming after a time. In one study, it reported the average time in ministry was seven years before burnout took too much of a toll that the pastor left the ministry. During COVID, the number of pastors that left the ministry increased, and many church bodies, including the LCMS, provided further resources to pastors and church workers to help diagnose burnout. Pastor Augustine has never had any extended time off in his 14 years of service to the Church. He has completed 8 years of that at Immanuel, a congregation of over 700 souls that probably should be served by two pastors with the amount of work to be done with that many members and the school. He has always used his vacation and is thankful for that time off. But the past few years have taken a greater toll on his well-being and signs of burnout were evident to him. Therefore, he requested the shortest recommended time of three weeks during July when ministry demands are lighter than the rest of the year.

What if something happens? Pastoral coverage is in place for Sunday services as well as day-to-day activity. Pastor John Fuchs will continue to do the regular monthly visitations. If you simply want a Communion visit, you can call him at home: 534-6565. For other urgent things like a hospital call, hospice care, or a funeral, Pastor Dale Kohrs can be called on his cellphone: (507) 525-3844. You can call an elder, too, and he will do what he can to take care of the situation.

Is there anything I can or should do? Pray for Pastor and Kim and the family. The wife and family also bear the burden when a pastor is struggling to get the work done. Pray for peace and rest. Keep coming to church. Keep giving your offerings. Look at your own life and how you might be more faithful with your time and talent to be a blessing and not a burden. Respect that he will not be checking emails or returning phone calls or texts to truly unplug from the 24/7 responsibilities to the flock. Welcome him back in August! Find out more on pastoral sabbaticals here: <https://ministrysabbaticalresources.com/>