Immanuel
·Connecting People to Christ for Life·

Get Connected

with People at Immanuel



Worship - Pg. 1

Bible Studies - Pg. 2

Children/Youth - Pg. 4

Service - Pg. 6

Other Groups - Pg. 9

See this booklet our website

Fall 2026

www.immanuelbelvidere.org

Immanuel is not a church of programs.
Immanuel is a church of people.

As a church of People Connected to Christ for Life, God has good use of us to love and serve those around us. As you read through these opportunities to connect, please remember this booklet is not a list of programs offered by a church. This booklet is a collection of passionate people who are excited about being used by God to love and serve those around them. We would love for you to get connected with other people at Immanuel.

The easiest way to get connected with people at Immanuel is through being in worship regularly. This is where God gathers us, forgives us, and feeds us with His life-giving Gifts of Word & Sacrament. So, find a worship time that works for you, and then maybe consider one other way to get connected with people at Immanuel. You might think about it as "worship plus one."

Interested in starting a new group? Contact Pastor Richard in the church office.

Immanuel is not a church of programs.
Immanuel is a church of people.
People Connected to Christ for Life!

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."

Romans 12:4-5a

Get Connected with People in…

Worship Services

Heritage Services – Saturday @ 6pm / Sunday @ 8am

This classic service celebrates the traditions of the faith including hymns played on the pipe organ. Choirs, instrumentalists, and bell choir also regularly contribute.

Horizon Service (Updated) – Sunday @ 10:15am

A less formal setting of worship, the service includes elements of modern music and instrumentation, often led by Immanuel's Praise Team. Nursery-care and special younger children's programming during the sermon (Christ For Kids - Worship) is also available.

Midweek Flashback Service – Wednesday @ 11am

This service includes key elements, including Holy Communion, of worship in a smaller setting. Sermon and readings are a "flashback" of the previous Sunday.

Immanuel North Service – Sunday @ 10:30am

Worship at Immanuel's North Campus (2940 Charleston Ct Caledonia, IL 61011) is casual and conversational with a focus on reaching the community.

See our livestream and recordings of past services on our YouTube page: Immanuel Belvidere Streaming

Upcoming Special Services

Thanksgiving Eve Worship - Weds. November 25 - 7pm

Advent Lessons and Carols - Weds. December 2 - 7pm

Advent Worship (led by ILS Students) - Weds. December 9 and 16 - 7pm

Christmas Eve Worship - Thurs. December 24 - 4pm, 7pm, and 10pm

Christmas Day Worship - Fri. December 25th - 10am

New Year's Eve Worship - Thurs. December 31 - 5pm

Get Connected with People in…

Adult Bible Study

Sunday Morning Discipleship Time | 9:15-10am

Each week, people at Immanuel gather between worship services for a time of intentional fellowship and learning. Coffee and donuts are provided in the Fellowship Hall and nursery-care is available for those too young for children's programming. Classes will be on-break November 29, December 27, and January 3.

Pastors' Study

Sundays, 9:15-10am - Fellowship Hall
Contact Pastor Braun Campbell
bcampbell@immanuelbelvidere.org
Contact Pastor Keith Richard
krichard@immanuelbelvidere.org

Pastors alternate leading this large-group class on a variety of topics kicking off on September 13th digging deeper into topics from our fall sermon series "What's On Your Mind."

See past class **livestreams** on our YouTube: Immanuel Belvidere Streaming

Parents Small Group

Sundays, 9:15-10am - Conference Rm.
Contact Angie Nitz
anitz@immanuelbelvidere.org
Parents are invited to this small group study of the topics and texts covered in each week's children/youth ministry classes. Expect casual but intentional, practical conversation about ways to apply God's truth in the everyday life of your family.

Serendipity Bible Study

Sundays, 9:15-10am - ILS Library
Contact Tim Gifford
tim.gifford@aol.com

Join this small group each week for a study of God's Word in a comfortable, conversational setting.

For information on **Children's and Youth** classes meeting during this time, see page 4.

Additional Adult Bible Study Groups

People at Immanuel regularly gather throughout the week to study God's word together. Check with group leader before attending as times/locations are subject to change.

Immanuel North Bible Study

***Sundays, 9:30am* - Immanuel North**
Contact Pastor Keith Richard
krichard@immanuelbelvidere.org

Immanuel disciples gather before worship every Sunday for Bible study. Everyone is welcome and they study various topics throughout the year.

Monday Morning Bible Class

Mondays*, 9-10:15am - Fellowship Hall*
Contact Pastor Keith Richard
krichard@immanuelbelvidere.org

Every Monday, Immanuel disciples gather for food, fellowship, and Bible study. Fellowship and food begin at 9:00am and Pastor Richard teaches from 9:15 to 10:15.

Bible Journaling

2nd Weds, 9-10am - Fellowship Hall
Contact Susan Leibforth
sbleibforth@gmail.com

Experience this creative and personal way to study scripture by recording thoughts, prayers and simple art work or doodles in the margins of a Bible Journaling Bible or notebook to capture thoughts on specific scripture being studied each month.

No previous experience or artistic talent is needed. Supplies are included (with the exception of a Bible Journal if you choose to use one.)

Men's Saturday Morning Study

2nd/4th Sat, 8am-9:15am - Conference Rm
Contact Mike Robertson
m_l_robertson@yahoo.com

This fall-winter, this group will study the Sermon on the Mount. Join them for a small group exploration of this large collection of Jesus' teachings.

Lifelight Women's Bible Studies

Dig into God's word through at-home study and small group conversation

2nd/4th Mondays, 6:30-8pm - Crownpoint
Contact Jana Crandall
ww.9565bvd.com@juno.com
Jump in at any time as this group works through a year-long study of Isaiah.

Thursdays, 9:15-11am - Conference Room
Contact Donna Gutzler
lwmlpurplelady@gmail.com
This study also includes a pastor Q&A. Join for the upcoming study of Joshua starting in Nov. (Email Donna to order your book.)

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm - Christ the Rock
Contact Elissa Sullivan
deszoo@comcast.net
Contact Elissa for topics. Men's Group also meets at this time.

Thursday Evenings, Meets Virtually
Contact Tracy Rognstad
tracyrognstad@gmail.com
Join this Zoom group anytime.

Get Connected with…

Children and Youth

Sunday Morning Discipleship

Sundays, 9:15-10am
Contact Sarah Kortze (PreK-5th)
skortze@immanuelbelvidere.org
Contact Angie Nitz (6th-12th)
anitz@immanuelbelvidere.org

Sunday morning children's and youth classes dig into the truth of God's word in creative and age-appropriate ways. Topics align across the grades (and with the **parenting small group** - see pg. 2) so the whole family can grow together.

- **Sept/Oct:** *Where's God When I Feel…*
  Walk through six common emotions with Jesus' disciples, focusing on our God who is always with us!
- **Nov:** *ThanksGIVING*
  Practical teaching on service culminates in a congregation-wide service project on November 22.
- **Dec:** *Advent Escape Rooms*
  Work together to uncover clues leading to God's greatest gift to us!

Youth Nights

Middle School - 1st Sundays
High School - 3rd Sundays
Contact Angie Nitz
anitz@immanuelbelvidere.org

Youth Nights give middle and high school students a place to build friendships, have fun, and grow in faith together through games, activities, service, and time in God's Word. Middle and high school groups meet monthly, with events designed especially for each age group.

Scan the QR code to join the youth mailing list and stay updated on youth events.

Confirmation

Sun, 9:15-10am, or Weds,
Contact Angie Nitz
anitz@immanuelbelvidere.org

Immanuel's Confirmation Program helps students in grades 6–10 and their parents explore the Bible, Lutheran beliefs, and what it means to live as disciples of Jesus through learning modules offered on Sundays and Wednesdays. Families choose the pace that works best for them.

Get Connected with...

Immanuel Lutheran School

People at Immanuel believe giving children a Christ-centered education is an important part of "Connecting People to Christ for Life." Call the School Office (815-547-5346) for more information on our amazing PreK-8th Grade school.

Get Involved

Tidiers Wanted

Contact Church Office
(815) 544-8058

We're looking for willing hearts and hands who are available during the school day (around 12:15-12:30 p.m.) to help tidy up our lunchroom. This is a quick but important responsibility, and we'd like to build a "clean-up crew" of folks who could sweep and wipe tables a couple of days a week.

Reading Buddies

Contact Tara Oetting
toetting@immanuelknights.org

Adult buddies listen to 1st-4th graders, who could benefit from extra reading practice on either Monday or Friday mornings. This is a great opportunity for individuals looking for an easy way to serve some of our ILS students!

Fall Festival

Friday, October 23 - 4:30-7pm
Contact Sarah Kortze
skortze@immanuelbelvidere.org

All Immanuel families (church and/or school) are invited to an evening of Fall family fun sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization in the ILS Parking Lot. Contact Sarah if you'd like to help pass out popcorn or run an easy game!

Dinner Auction

Saturday, November 14 - 5pm

This signature fundraiser is a key way Immanuel 'bridges the gap' financially to continue providing affordable, Christian eduation to our community.

Learn more about donating items, becoming a sponsor, or purchasing your ticket to this year's event!

Stay Updated

Subscribe to Immanuel's **"Knightly News"** weekly newsletter. Delivered to your inbox each Friday.

Get Connected with People through...

Service Opportunities

At Immanuel

People of Immanuel serve their neighbors both here at Immanuel and out in their communities and beyond. Check with the contact person for ways you can get connected through service.

A/V Team

Contact Aaron Kortze
akortze@immanuelbelvidere.org

Work in the sound booth to do the important work of running worship screens or livestream cameras during services.

Campus Support Team

Contact Dave Grashorn
sexton@immanuelbelvidere.org

Contact Dave to be added to the list of willing hands as facilities projects pop-up around the building. Handyman skills useful but not required for all projects.

Fellowship Committee

Contact the Irma Tate
irmatate1972@gmail.com

Help bring people together with food! This group organizes luncheons, special meals, and Sunday morning donuts.

Gardens & Grounds

Contact Mark and Donna Gutzler
mdgteach1@comcast.net

Calling all gardeners! Help keep a section of Immanuel's property looking beautiful, all to the glory of God.

Greeters

Contact Sally Stegemann
srsteg@comcast.net

Individuals or entire families greet those entering for worship with a smile or a handshake.

Lectors

Contact Pastor Braun Campbell
bcampbell@immanuelbelvidere.org

Proclaiming the Scriptures in worship for God's people.

Sanctuary Staff

Contact Erica Bluege
erica.bluege@hotmail.com

Work "behind the scenes" to keep the Sanctuary looking beautiful and prepare the Lord's Supper.

Ushers

Contact Jeff Gathman
jeff@bleacherrepair.com
Men, women, and youth assist with seating, offering, and other logistical needs during worship.

Get Connected with People through...

Service Opportunities

Community & Beyond

Belize Mission Team

Contact Karyn Salgado
salgadob7@aol.com

Whether your gift is construction, encouragement, healthcare, or something entirely different, you can bring God's light to the villagers of Siene Bight.

Learn more at BelizeMissionSociety.net

Caring Crafters

1st/3rd Tuesdays, 1-3pm - Crownpoint
Contact Laura Nie
lmn001@frontier.com, 815-988-4046

This group gathers to work on hand made projects that serve others. Crafters and sewers welcome.

Project ideas/requests welcome.

Helping Hands Network

Mon-Wed, 9am-Noon - Crownpoint
Contact Brenda McElroy
bmcelroy@immanuelbelvidere.org

Serve with a network of Boone County churches assisting those in physical and financial crisis when other community service agencies are unable to.

Contribute to Helping Hands' Paper Closet Amazon Wishlist

Journey to Bethlehem

Friday, December 4
Contact Aaron Kortze
a*kortze@immanuelbelvidere.org*

The Journey to Bethlehem experience is a long-standing addition to Belvidere's "Hometown Christmas" festival. People from Immanuel work together to set up (and pose in) a living nativity (complete with petting zoo) and serve hot cocoa and cookies to over 1,000 visitors.

There are a variety of jobs needed to make this event a success, from posing in a nativity costume to loading and transporting set pieces to passing out cookies.

Loving Touch

Contact Sally Stegemann
srsteg@comcast.net

This Care Ministry group sends cards throughout the year and delivers poinsettias and a bag of "goodies" to our shut-ins at Christmas as a reminder they are not forgotten (by Jesus or us). Watch as we get closer to Christmas for information of how you can help donate or deliver gifts.

Get Connected with People through...

Service (Continued)

Community & Beyond

Lutherans For Life

Contact Jamie Clausing
jamilynclausing@hotmail.com

People of any age who have a heart and passion for preserving and honoring life in all stages, from conception to natural death are welcome to participate in events with this group such as a booth at the county fair and Belvidere's annual "Walk for Life." We also host multi-congregation meetings to share ideas for the best ways to educate and equip our congregation.

Scan the QR code to visit lutheransforlife.org to learn more about the mission.

Operation Christmas Child

Collection Week: November 16-23
Contact Toni Baumann
tonisbaumann@yahoo.com

Immanuel serves as a drop-off location for this international organization dedicated to deliver gift-filled shoe boxes to children around the world. Pick up your own shoebox to fill, donate to cover costs, or volunteer to collect and ready boxes for shipping.

Visit Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child website to learn more

Prayer Team

Wednesday, 6:15am - School Library
Contact Nancy Kelsey
bk43mk22@yahoo.com

In addition to meeting each week for intercessory prayer, this group seasonally updates Immanuel's public "Prayer Walk" and is available after each worship service for private prayer.

Prayer requests can be submitted in Narthex or through the QR Code.

ReFill for Empower Boone

First Saturday/Sunday of the Month

Each month, Immanuel members "fill the bin" in the Narthex with a specific item requested by the Empower Boone Food Pantry. Watch the bulletin for each month's request.

Storehouse Meal Ministry

Contact Charmaine Larson
charmaine.cornwell@gmail.com

This group prepares home-cooked frozen meals that are packaged for easy delivery and ready to be thawed and cooked by the recipient to anyone in need in our community.

The ministry teams prepares meals every other month, typically a Saturday morning, from 8am-Noon.

Get Connected with People through…

Activity/Other Groups

People at Immanuel regularly gather throughout the week for community, support, and fun. Check with group leader before attending as times/locations are subject to change.

Chair Yoga

1st/3rd Weds, 10am - Immanuel North
Contact Laura Nie
lmn001@frontier.com

Physical activity is a gift from God and vital for well being as we age. All activities levels are welcome at this video led chair yoga and balance group.

Dartball

Contact Erich Staskal
ejstaskal@gmail.com

Members of this team travel to area churches for friendly competition of this easy-to-learn game.

Euchre/Cribbage

2nd/4th Tues, 6:30pm - Fellowship Hall
Contact Sue Goll
tococoasmom@yahoo.com

All are invited to join old and new friends for a casual evening of game-playing. All experience levels welcome. Meeting times may change during winter months.

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) Group

3rd Fridays, 12pm - Fellowship Hall
Contact Sue Goll
tococoasmom@yahoo.com

An opportunity for those living in the "mature" years of their lives (55+) to get together for fellowship, growth, entertainment, and service. Luncheons often include a potluck and seasonal theme.

LWML Women's Groups

Contact Donna Gutzler
lwmlpurplelady@gmail.com

Meet with other women for fellowship, treats, guest speakers, and a focus on local and international mission.

Ladies Guild
1st Thursdays, 1pm - Fellowship Hall

Mary Martha
3rd Tuesdays, 7pm - Crown Point

Learn more about LWML at www.lwml.org

MomCo Moms Group

2nd/4th Fridays, 9-11am
Christ the Rock Lutheran Church
Contact Sarah Kortze
skortze@immanuelbelvidere.org

Join with other moms for conversation of MomCo International's video curriculum. Perfect for moms looking for a supportive community of other Christian moms. Childcare provided.

Visit themom.co for more information.

WOW Book Club

Sundays (Once a Month) 12:30-2pm
Crown Point
Contact Elissa Sullivan
skortze@immanuelbelvidere.org

A relaxed time of discussion and fellowship over a variety of styles of books.

Upcoming reads:

- Sept - *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson
- Oct - *One Tuesday Morning* by Karen Kingsbury
- Nov - *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- Dec - *Christmas Around the Fire* by Ryan N. S. Topping

Music

Adult Choir

Wednesdays, 6pm-7pm - Sanctuary
Contact Aaron Kortze
akortze@immanuelbelvidere.org

Join other adults (9th grade and up) as we use our voices to praise God and enrich the musical life of the church! We help lead worship at 8am on communion Sundays. Choir experience not required.

Handbell Choir

Wednesdays, 5pm-6pm - Sanctuary
Starts in October
Contact Donna Gutzler
lwmlpurplelady@gmail.com

The Handbell Choir uses hand bells and hand chimes to ring our Savior's praises at weekend services.

Praise Team

Wednesdays, 7pm-8pm - Sanctuary
Contact Aaron Kortze
akortze@immanuelbelvidere.org

This team of musicians provide modern praise music to lead our 10:15 worship service. Current needs include bass guitar, drums, and acoustic guitar and playing every week is not a requirement. Contact Aaron to set up an audition.

Support

Cancer Care

Contact Trina Gritzmacher
ccm.trinagritz@gmail.com

Our Cancer Care Team provides practical support, encouragement, compassion, and the Hope of Christ, to individuals battling cancer. No one battling cancer should walk this journey alone.

Please consider joining our team on **Saturday, September 19th from 9-11am in the Fellowship Hall.** We will learn the basics of our ministry, as well as complete the 1st of 8 training sessions.

Caregiver Support Group

1st Thursdays, 6-7:30pm - Crown Point
Contact Laura Nie
lmn001@frontier.com

This group provides emotional validation, practical coping strategies and access to information and resources for those caring for someone with a memory disorder in a non-judgemental and caring atmosphere.

Compassionate Friends

2nd Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm - Crown Point
Contact Charmaine Larson
CompassionateFriendsBelvidere @gmail.com

The Compassionate Friends is a national non-profit organization providing peer support, comfort, and hope to families experiencing the death of a child, grandchild, or sibling.

Learn more at compassionatefriends.org

Journeying Through Grief

Contact Trina Gritzmacher
katkip@msn.com

Journeying through Grief is not a group, but a Stephen Ministries book series. Four books that focus on grief, offering comfort, guidance, and hope are mailed out separately at specific times. If you know someone journeying through grief, contract Trina to get them these valuable resources.

Learn more at stephenministry.org

Pastoral support is also always available. If you would like to connect with one of Immanuel's pastors, contact the Church Office (815-544-8058) to set up a meeting.