

A photograph of several pumpkins in a field, with some green and some orange. The pumpkins are in the foreground, and the background shows tall grasses and a cloudy sky.

October, 2018

THE VISION

Come, Ye Thankful People Come!

The sermon last Sunday, as we are focusing upon the prophets, used Isaiah's words, "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!" Therein lies the invitation to realize that God's love for us always invites us into God's presence of abundance. Isaiah goes on to provide instruction, "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen so that you may live." —Isaiah 55

These verses indicate a need to respond to the invitation—that's for sure! But the text has a feeling of curious invitation in particular! Come to listen! Come to hear! Come awake! Come to receive with no money strings attached? Come ready for God's free and delightful abundance! Come with respect! Come with gratitude! Our imaginations can lead us to think about quickly responding to the invitation of God with anticipation, excitement, and joy—almost as dancing children!

But do we do that? Are we excited to come and see or come and hear the abundant provision of our loving God? Do we come to the living waters that quench our thirst forever? Do we buy and eat as we respect the abundant mercies of God's freedom? OR, instead do we find ourselves having a specific way in which our thirst is quenched, and a specific preference concerning financial situations or financial freedom? Do we come to God with gratitude and respect, and love and delight? OR, do we approach with our own hard-headedness, wanting our own preferences, habits and behaviors?

We can all find ourselves in the latter group of coming to God with a lack of gratitude and our hard-headedness and hard-heartedness. I think this is the human condition that has permeated since time began. But this way of living sure steals our joy and alienates us from the every-flowing streams of peace and assuredness of God's love.

The hymn, "Come Ye Thankful People Come," reminds the people of the 1800's of the same need. Alford, in 1844, writes "All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield; wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown; first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear; Lord of harvest grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be."

So do not let your weariness of this constant need in our lives that challenges us to be excited and delighted to come to God just as God leads us. We have been given the invitation. Be joyful! Be thankful! Take delight! Walk humbly with anticipation of arrival in the presence of "All the world being God's own field." AND, may we be grateful! As God has invited each of us to a place of beauty and provision, will you offer the same beautiful, decent, bountiful offering to others? Please offer bountiful blessings to those whom you walk with, love, worship with, work with, discuss with, commune with, and simply BE with. "Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be." Blessings—Pastor Jackie



Sunday Morning Worship at Immanuel

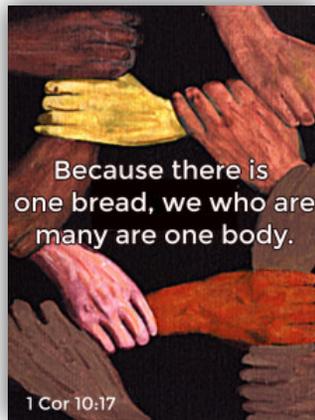
Our new time of worship at 8:45 am on Sunday mornings is off to a good start. Some worshipful moments that we have experienced include learning some new songs, celebrating with prayer and scripture, and even a few invigorating Creative Moments with our children. One Sunday we began our worship service by hearing the sound of the bowl that we ring on Wednesday

evenings at the Contemplative Service, "Hevel." Along with that, we began our service in silent prayer. Silence in a holy place calms our spirits and prepares our hearts to hear the voice of God in an intentional way. This Sunday we look forward to hearing five voices from the Edwardsville High School lead our worship in song and praise. Thanks to Sydney Grammer for the coor-

dination of this. In summary, we have enjoyed the variety of Sheila Acuncius' and Rhonda Grammer's beautiful gifts of music, and look forward to seeing Dave Schaake on the second Sunday of each month. We celebrate with meaningful songs, raw text, and a call from God to grow deeper in our faith.

World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 7. WCS is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. It is also one of the six special Sunday offerings taken each year by the United Methodist Church. Gifts to World Communion Sunday fund graduate racial-



ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs. Your gift makes a world of difference.

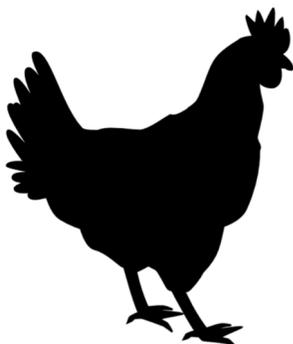
All Saints' Day

We will be celebrating All Saints on Sunday, November 4th. During the worship service, we will be commemorating persons in our church family or other loved ones who have passed away since last All Saints' Day. If you have a

loved one who has joined "that great cloud of witnesses" described in the Book of Hebrews, please inform the church office with an e-mail, telephone call, or pick up and return a form that can be found in the Hospitality Room.



Chicken Dinner Fundraiser



Tired of cooking Sunday Dinner? On Sunday, October 14, 2018 from 11 am until 3 pm, Immanuel will sponsor a full fried chicken dinner at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge #1561 located at 7371 Marine Road in Edwardsville. The meal will consist of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, green salad, tea, or coffee, all for the cost of \$9 for adults, and \$4 for kids age

5-12. Carry outs will be available, and desserts will be sold separately. Tickets are available at the door. We are asking for dessert donations and for workers on that day. There are sign-up sheets in the Hospitality Room. Please join us for a great day of fellowship and good food.

Schnuck's Bags 4 My Cause

We have some very exciting news! The Schnucks Supermarket located in Alton, Illinois has chosen Immanuel's Free Lunch Friday as the latest beneficiary of the Schnucks—Bags 4 My Cause program! This means for the entire month of October, every time the reusable Hunger bag with the message "Every Bag Feeds a Neighbor in Need" is purchased at the Alton store lo-

cated at 2811 Homer Adams Parkway in Alton, Free Lunch Friday receives \$1!

This is truly a great opportunity for us and it's an easy way for you to show your support for our Free Lunch Friday program. Please go to the store, find the reusable bag rack and buy a few Hunger bags!

And remember to spread the word—the more bags pur-



chased, the bigger donations to Free Lunch Friday.

For more information about the Schnucks—Bags 4 My Cause program, visit schnucks.bags4mycause.com

Hospitality Returns!

Hospitality is provided once again! If you are interested in making pots of coffee before church and staying a little after the church service, please let Sharon Koenig know. Clean-up should not be too involved because no food items will be planned—just



coffee! We look forward to having some time of fellowship and kindred love for that hot, flavorful, roasted blend of dark beans! Oh yeah! There will be hot water too for you Hot Chocolate and Tea Lovers.

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas may be two months away, but October is the time to fill Operation Christmas Child boxes. Operation Christmas Child, through Samaritan's Purse, distributes these boxes to needy children around the world that otherwise would not be receiving a Christmas gift. Operation Christmas Child boxes will be

available for you to pick-up beginning in early October and need to be **returned to the church no later than November 11**. Instructions and a list of suggested items are included in each box. Along with the box, pick up a label to specify whether the box is for a boy or girl and also one of the three suggested age

groups. If you are interested in learning more about this effort, Samaritan's Purse has a very informative website, www.samaritanspurse.org with information about Operation Christmas Child and also their other missionary work.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Once again this Thanksgiving, Faith Coalition Edwardsville would like to invite you to provide Thanksgiving baskets to clients of the GlenEd pantry. Each basket will contain all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner for one family. What a wonderful way to share the love of God with our neighbors!

In years past, the baskets have cost about \$30 apiece. With the combined efforts of as many churches as possible, we hope to raise \$7,500 to provide up to 250 baskets, many of which are picked up by clients at the pantry, and others delivered to residents of the May building. The baskets will be ordered the

week before Thanksgiving, for delivery the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, so all monies must be collected by Monday, November 12. Checks can be made out to Immanuel UMC, with "Thanksgiving Baskets" on the memo line. Last year your generosity donated \$802!!

Hurricane Relief

UMCOR is pleased to report that damage assessments in North and South Carolina have begun. However, these assessments have not been completed due to high water in many of the effected areas. Please pray for Early Response

Teams, disaster coordinators and the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief. You can give to UMCOR's relief and recovery efforts at umcor.org/donate (U.S. Disaster Response, Advance #901670). You also can

give by making your check payable to Immanuel UMC, with "Hurricane Relief" on the memo line.

Walk for PKD

Millions of people have polycystic kidney disease worldwide, including members of Immanuel. This year, once again, we are walking to end PKD and we ask for your support! If you would like to make a donation, see Ron &

Joann Schaake or Dave & Trish Rader. If you would like to make a pledge or join our team to walk, we would love to have you! We walk this year on October 7th at 10:00 am in Tower Grove Park. See us for more information.

Make a Pledge or Join Our Walk!

Noisy Offering for October

The Community Children's Ministry is where monies received in our Noisy Offering will be directed in October.

The Community Children's Ministry purchases warm winter coats for children at our local Head Start program, as

well as Christmas gifts and food for the holidays to needy families who live in our community.

Last Call for Readers

Our next door neighbor, Head Start, would like volunteers who love reading storybooks to children to come read twice a month during the school year. We will be reading on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2:15 pm. You may bring

your own book or they will provide you with one. They ask that you read no more than 10 minutes, and that the books you choose do not include any reference to a holiday or any religion. This has been a very enjoyable oppor-

tunity for both Immanuel and Head Start for many years. Please call the church office asap to be put on the schedule for the 2018-19 school year. We still need a few more volunteers. Thanks!

Glen-Ed Pantry

The items that are most needed now at the Food Pantry are peanut butter, toilet paper, cereal, crackers, Hamburger Helper, macaroni and cheese, and spaghetti. Always needed are detergent and dishwashing soap.

A big thanks to everyone who donated over 200 pounds to the Glen-Ed Pantry in September, which includes 56 pounds donated by 55+ Fellowship. Great job!!



Thank You!

"My name is Rebecca Blevins and I am the current School Supply Drive Coordinator at the **Glen-Ed Food Pantry**. I just wanted to thank your church for aiding in making this years event so successful. The donations you gave went on to help so many students in need. Thank you again for being such a blessing."

"Thank you for your recent gift of \$184.92 to the **Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund** (PASBF). We appreciate your support, generosity, and thoughtfulness. We give thanks for your witness and ministry to your church, community, and beyond. God bless you all!

About us, the PASBF is able to serve those who served us because of the generosity of people and churches like yours. Established in the Civil War Era, the PASFB was to serve "worn out and tired clergy." Today, the PASFB is pleased to serve those who served us by paying for the health insurance of the retired clergy and their spouses. ... God bless you!

Rev. Keith Anderson
Executive Director



We want to keep you up-to-date! Do we have your latest address, phone number, and email address?

Want to receive our weekly emails? Be sure the church office has your email address!

A Blessed Assistance for Edwardsville Community

Many of you have had the opportunity to meet Sarah Hoelscher. She has been a voice in the community, in particular, representing the Cedarhurst Assisted Living Facility. She has recently begun her own business in a similar area. Her new business is called, "A Guiding Light." Her purpose is to connect particu-

larly the elderly in our community with the resources that are often needed such as Assisted Living, Memory Care or In-Home Care Placement. Her services provide: Face-to-Face meeting, Accompany to on-site tours of facilities, Assist with paperwork, and Coordinate with a realtor or moving company. Her services to

you are 100% free and no charge to each of you. Her phone number is 618 979-3602. Her email address is sara.guidinglight@yahoo.com. Her website is www.aguidinglightllc.com Sara is the sweetest ever! Feel free to contact her with any and all questions.

Nursery News!

We are finding that our Nursery Friends are increasing. This is exciting to hear babies and toddlers in worship, as well as see our babies and toddlers in the nursery downstairs. It is important that we remember the rules of our nursery in order to ensure a safe environment. Immanuel's nursery is provided for all children that are under the age of school age. Our Child Care Provider,

Phyllis Fisher expresses her love and care for our children as a responsive calling to God. It is important to Phyllis for each child to feel loved, cared for, and tenderly and adequately kept safe while their parents engage in meaningful worship. The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) is requesting a Check-In and Check-Out policy to be respected and practiced.

Since we have had significant growth, the SPPRC is also offering an invitation to individuals of the Senior High Youth Group to assist Phyllis on Sunday mornings. Please let Phyllis know of your availability.

Liturgist Opportunity

Would you like to become more personally involved in worship by acting as liturgist? This is a great opportunity for

those who attended our contemporary worship service to become an active part of our new worship service. For

more details, please speak to Jordan Grammer or Pastor Jackie.

Prayer Concerns (+ indicates weeks—call office to continue another 4 weeks)

- + Rhonda Grammer, surgery on October 3 to repair torn meniscus
Vicki Aufdemberge, cousin of Anita Seehausen, began a new round of chemotherapy
Erica Robertson, great-niece of Floyd & Deloris Fisher, cancer has returned after several years
Shelly Franke, recovering from surgery on September 27
Marian Skinner, recovering from broken hip
Mike Portell, strength and healing
Lida Gillham, strength and healing
Antonize Anderson, undergoing chemotherapy
Family of Jeanne Trampe, sister-in-law of Anita Seehausen
Hurricane Florence victims—Advance #901670
- ++ Kent Schuette, recovering from A Fib
BethAnne Havis' friend who had a house fire
Grace Havis' friends' baby who is not gaining weight
Rhonda Grammer has a friend who lost her husband in a car accident
Bruce Tuley, brother of Barb Taliana, facing more health issues
- +++ Bruce Seehausen, recovering from open heart surgery
- ++++ Emma Tallon, Middle School student battling leukemia
Donna and Janet Hardbeck for the continued processing of their parents' estate

**IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

We seek to be God's people in attitude and action as we:

Experience and Share God's grace joyfully,

Live and Teach God's Word faithfully,

Accept and Serve God's people lovingly.

You are invited to join us in this mission ...

CONTACT US!

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anita@immanuelonmain.org

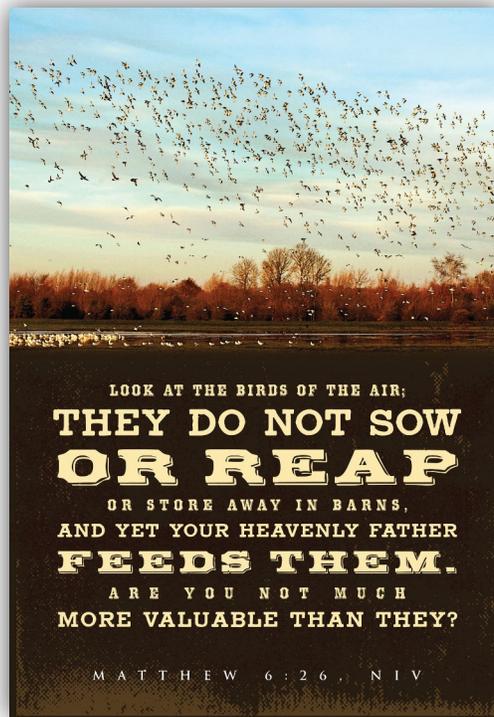
Pastor's E-mail:
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[www.facebook.com/
immanuelonmain.org](http://www.facebook.com/immanuelonmain.org)

Reverend Jackie Havis-Shear
Cell Phone: (618) 531-9134

Maurice "Butch" Mestemacher
Instrument Director

Jordan Grammer
Worship Leader



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service
8:45 a.m.
In Sanctuary

Common Time
9:45 a.m.
Includes:
Elementary Sunday School
Middle School Sunday School
Seekers Class
Wired Word Discussions
Youth Devo
Hospitality

Nursery Available
Until 10:45 am