



The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

September
2024

*“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house,
and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts;
see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you
and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”*

–Malachi 3:10



September is a time of new beginnings with teachers and children returning to school, summer ending, and all of us settling into new schedules. The Fall is also the traditional season for church stewardship drives as we ask our congregation to take a new look at how they share their time, talent, and gifts. And since gifts usually includes money, stewardship drives can be quite uncomfortable. I must admit the part of stewardship that involves asking for money is not my strong suit. I dread it just as much as you probably do. So, I gratefully share with you the following article from Pastor Rob Blezard, who actually enjoys stewardship:

“Again and again the Bible lifts up tithing – giving a tenth of our income – as a benchmark for faithful giving. The prophet Malachi goes so far as to say God promises to rain down abundant blessings upon those who tithe. Yet most Christians fall quite short of tithing, generally giving less than 3 percent to the church?

Why? One reason is that in calculating how much to give, most people use the fixed-rate method. They first take stock of how much *they are able* to give, and then how much *they want* to give. Weighing these two factors, they then decide how much *they will* give.

There’s nothing particularly bad about this method, but it has limitations. While giving folks an offering amount they can live with, the fixed-rate method doesn’t necessarily put them on the path toward tithing.

A better method is percentage giving, that is, determining your offering as a percentage of income. Here’s how:

Using a calculator, divide your weekly (or monthly, or yearly) church offering by your take-home pay for the same period (week, month or year). Then multiply that figure by 100. This gives you the percentage of your giving. For example, if your weekly offering is \$30 and your weekly take-home pay is \$500, your percentage of giving is 6 percent ($30 \div 500 = 0.06$, then $0.06 \times 100 = 6$).

Can *everyone* afford to tithe? Of course not. Certainly God would not want children to go hungry or be cold so that their parents could tithe to church, but it’s also true that many of us, maybe most of us, could afford to give more. The important thing is to be prayerful about your offering, be as generous as you are able, and keep tithing in mind, perhaps as a goal.

Keeping track of your giving as a percentage of income provides you with information to gauge your offering and perhaps build up to a tithe. You can make it a goal gradually, over time, to increase the percentage until you reach a tithe – 10 percent. One simple way would be to increase your giving by one half of a percentage point per year.

As Malachi promises, God will bless you richly for your tithing, and not only that, your church will be blessed, too. Switching from fixed-rate giving to percentage giving is a good start.

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Rob Blezard is web editor for the Stewardship of Life Institute and pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.

Welcoming All. Growing Together in Faith. Sharing Christ & Love



Located in the Flint Hills near Junction City

Immanuel has a long history of supporting the ministry of our church camp. We have sent many young people to summer camp and retreats. We've helped build a cabin and maintain it. We've attended fundraisers and work days. All these things we, the members of Immanuel, do are to help further the mission of the camp: *Explore Creation. Build Community. Build Faith.*

Thanks to two generous donors, we have raised the funds to pay for the repairs of the HVAC unit in the Immanuel cabin at Camp Tomah Shinga.

There are many other ways YOU can support the ministry of Tomah Shinga:

1. We are looking for a volunteer Camp Representative. This person would be the point of contact with the camp, sharing the excitement of things that are happening out at camp with our congregation.
2. The facia and soffit boards of the Immanuel Cabin need some repairs. Volunteers are needed for this project.
3. Camp Tomah Shinga is committed to never turning a child away from camp. Donations made to the camp help provide opportunities for all campers.

If you have any questions about these opportunities, please contact the church office.



Finance Update through July 31, 2024

Year-to-Date Offerings Actual - \$97,499

Year-to-Date Offerings Budget - \$106,588

Average Actual Weekly Offering - \$3,250

Average Weekly Budget - \$3,553

Do you have an article for the Messenger?

Send information to office@immanuelssalina.org

Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

CONTACT US:

255 S. 7th St.....Salina, KS 67401

Church office.....(785) 825-4750

Jacqueline Thornton, Pastor.....pastorjacque@immanuelssalina.org

Mindy Tillberg, Deacon.....office@immanuelssalina.org

Church office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

Mutual Ministry Team Update

According to the Mutual Ministry Committee Guidelines, the members are "[o]pen to be a listening post and liaison for the rostered leader and congregation with permission to share comments and feedback with names provided." At our September and October meetings we will be doing an annual review of the pastor utilizing the Synod's "Definition of Compensation, Benefits and Responsibilities." Our recommendations along with the Finance Team recommendations are then forwarded to the Executive Team which has the Constitutional responsibility of conducting the pastor's annual evaluation. If you have comments, suggestions, or complaints regarding the pastor's performance of her duties, please bring them to the attention of a member of the Mutual Ministry Team. Our members are Karla Arpin, Kathy Oehmke, Connie Beisner, Shane Herron, Eugene Tillberg, and Randy Olson.

BETHANY+VILLAGE THE ART OF LIVING

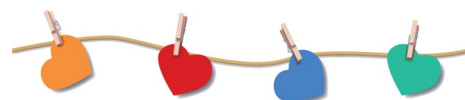
Once known simply as Bethany Home for over 100 years, Bethany Village is our ELCA ministry in Lindsborg made up of the 100-bed Bethany Home long-term care and rehabilitation residence, 50 full-service senior apartments at Sunflower Terrace, and 49 independent living residences called The Cottages. At the Synod Assembly in June, Pastor Jacques was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of Bethany Village which meets on the last Tuesday morning of each month.



The Missions Team would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Hot Times Car Show a success. The Proceeds will be going to Camp Tomah Shinga and Lutheran World Relief. Donations are still being accepted for this fundraiser!

Congregation Council Action **from July 2024:**

No minutes available at this time.



"The only thing of importance, when we depart, will be the traces of love we have left behind."

—Albert Schweitzer

**Wednesday,
September 4
5:30-7:00 pm**

5:30 pm Dinner
6:00 pm Fun Activities



Kick off the new school year at Messy Church! All ages are invited to get messy together through games, crafts, activities, and Biblical storytelling.



God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

"God's work. Our hands." is a way for us to be church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. Acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

On Sunday, September 8 members of Immanuel, Redeemer and St John's Lutheran churches will gather at 9:30 am at Redeemer (743 East Magnolia) for worship, fellowship and community service. A noisy offering to benefit the Salina Food Bank will be collected during worship. Service opportunities will include assembling shut-in bags and volunteering at Ashby House (yard work, cleaning, etc).

Items needed for the shut-in bags are trial-size hand lotions, soaps or antibacterial lotion, note cards and stamps, individually wrapped chocolates or hard candies, jumbo word searches or crossword puzzles, etc.

It's time to create LWR School Kits!

100 Lutheran World Relief school kits is our goal again this year! If you'd like to help gather supplies, items needed by September 15 are:

- 156 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 302 unsharpened #2 pencils

We will be ordering some items in bulk, so monetary donations are also encouraged. If you have questions, please contact Mindy Tillberg.



Women ^{of the} ELCA

Monday, September 16
1:30pm

Altar Guild will resume monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:15 pm. Wednesday, September 18 is the next meeting.



Bethany Village Annual Ice Cream Social Sunday, Sept 22 * 5:30-7:30 pm

321 N. Chestnut, Lindsborg
Featuring Lindsborg's Front Porch Pickers.
Freewill donation. All donations to benefit
Bethany Village programs & services.



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE Saturday, September 28



Good, clean items are needed for the annual rummage sale. Donations may be brought to the church and put on the basement stage. It takes many volunteers for a successful event, please consider helping with the Rummage Sale! There will be signup sheets available in September. Let us know if you are interested in helping and/or baking for a bake sale. For more information see Kathy Herron, Clara Herbel, Connie Beisner, or Corlene Lange.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation



On Sunday, October 20 our 3rd grade students are scheduled to receive Bibles. If you have a 3rd grader, please contact the church office so we may plan accordingly!

October Worship Volunteers as of 08/22/2024

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Greeter				Reformation Sunday Worship at St John's
Usher				
iPad				
Acolyte				
Cantor				
Assisting Minister				
Lector				
Children's Sermon				
Communion Assistant				
Altar Guild Communion Care				
Fellowship Hosts				

SEPTEMBER Worship Volunteers as of 08/22/2024

	Sept 1	Sept 8	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29
Greeter		God's Work Our Hands at Redeemer			
Usher					
iPad					
Acolyte	Terrill Olson		Terrill Olson	Terrill Olson	Terrill Olson
Cantor	Pam Michel				
Assisting Minister	Pam Michel				
Lector	Monica Davis		Karen Olson		
Children's Sermon	Liz Diehl		Liz Diehl		Liz Diehl
Communion Assistant					
Altar Guild Communion Care	Monica Davis		Corlene Lange		
Fellowship Hosts					