

IMMANUEL FAMILY UPDATE

The Official Newsletter Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

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Crewsing by Pastor Steven Borst

One of the favorite types of vacations for many of our families is cruising. There is something special about getting out on the open seas, breathing in fresh air, and enjoying lounging on deck. Who doesn't love having beautifully-prepared meals served to them every night? Kim and I had the amazing opportunity to take a cruise in Europe this summer. We visited Spain, Greece, Turkey, and Italy. While being on the boat was great, it was landing in the various ports and discovering the local sites that were truly the highlights. We were able to see La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, St. John's tomb in Ephesus, the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Olympia Greece & the first Olympics, and Rome's historical sites.

It's no surprise that St. Peter, a fisherman by trade, makes a reference to cruising in his first epistle:

"God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 3:20-21

Peter likens our salvation to Noah and his ark, and in doing so, describes our Christian faith less as a leisurely cruise and more like a water rescue! God saved us from our sins through Jesus Christ. By His death, He drowned death. By His mighty resurrection, He has brought us new and everlasting life. We are now safe, sailing inside the ark of God's grace, the church.

It's interesting that the term we use for the main body of the church is the "nave." That comes from a Latin word, meaning ship. (It's also the origin of our name for the U.S. Navy.) When we enter into the church, it's a reminder that we are safe within God's ship of salvation. The next time you sit in our sanctuary, look up. You'll see beams designed to look like the inside of an ark (turned upside down).

Yet, God did not rescue us for a life of leisure. Saved by His grace, He now calls us to serve together as a Christian crew. Think of it not as cruising, but "crewsing." We are called to serve one another, and to make sure that others come on board this ship of salvation through the waters of baptism and faith. So important is this identity that 1 Timothy 1:19 warns us: **"Hold onto the faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith."**

I love this imagery of the church, because it reminds us that our lives are not set adrift on some lonesome vessel. We belong to God. We are part of something bigger than ourselves. We live and serve together as the Crew of Christ.



October is Church Worker Appreciation Month Please take time during the month of October to share kind thoughts of appreciation and encouragement to our pastors, D.C.E. Intern, and church leaders. Show them that you care! Words of gratitude go a long way toward feeling appreciated and cherished. We have so many ways to communicate our thanks. Consider sharing a simple message, text, post, email, phone call or card of gratitude. Another way we are blessed to show our appreciation is by using the envelopes on the pew backs to place your monetary gifts. Please put your gift in the envelope, mark it Pastor's Appreciation, and then simply place it in the offering plate at any time during the month of October. We will celebrate our Ministry Staff in worship on November 2.

“Look into my Eyes” by Pastor Robert Jones

One of my favorite amusement park rides is the Indiana Jones ride in Disneyland. The premise of the ride is that those who have gone to this temple have come out with their hearts’ desires. That is, of course, if you don’t look into the eyes of the idol. Which inevitably you hear the temptation “look into my eyes...” and then you get sent along a terrible and terrific ride. You looked into the eyes of this fictional god and were punished for it.

At the current moment, we have plenty of “eyes” looking at us with the art installation, “Icons in Transformation.” If you enter our sanctuary, you are greeted by the works of Ludmila Pawlowska with one of the central motifs being the human eye. Everywhere you look, you see eyes looking in different places. Some are meant to be Jesus’ eyes while others are meant to be open to interpretation. However, it has been fascinating to hear the different interpretations of the eyes. Some people find them scary, haunting, or judgmental. Others have seen eyes full of compassion, love, and welcome. This has outlined the subjective nature of art which can be dangerous if it is not rooted in the eternal, divine Truth who is none other than Jesus. Yet, this illustrates perfectly the way that we often view God—is He a wrathful God who is disappointed with us and waiting to strike us with wrath, or is He a kind, loving God who pities us?

In the Old Testament, we’re told that Moses wanted to see God, but God would only show him His back because to see His face would cause Moses to die. To look upon God’s face would bring about death because God is holy and, we who are sinful, cannot look upon holiness. So, the question becomes “how does God look upon us?” And those questions get answered in the person of Jesus. Throughout the New Testament, we see Jesus looking upon others with compassion such as when the five thousand gathered and were hungry, seeing the grieving widow at a funeral, weeping at the funeral of Lazarus, and even when He is on the cross looking at His mother and John, the beloved disciple. That’s not to say that Jesus doesn’t get angry either—but it is clear that God is passionate for His creation and cannot stand sin.

Hebrews 12 tells us that Jesus was willing to endure the cross because of the joy that was set before Him—aka the joy of saving us from the power of sin and death. Jesus did not waiver from His mission. He did not falter and therefore, as St. Paul reminds us, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

So, the next time you are looking at the art in the sanctuary, I would encourage you to look into the eyes of Christ and remember the Word of God to inform how you might look at these eyes. See the eyes of the Savior who loves you enough to die for you. See the eyes of the Savior that looked upon the people with compassion and provides for them. See the eyes of Jesus who kept His eyes fixed on the prize. See the eyes that see all of creation, history, time, and specifically see you.



Elementary School update
Erin Chinchilla



Thank you for all your prayers and support as our school-year began. We are off to a terrific start!

Chapels

Chapel is every Wednesday at 8:45 am. Last month our senior staff kicked off the school year with messages about our theme, "Make a Joyful Noise!" Starting in October, different classes will have the opportunity to share the Good News with their schoolmates. All are welcome to come to chapel!

Parent Teacher League (PTL)

On October 22, PTL is sponsoring Bunko! It's a mom's night out from 6-8 pm. It's a fun night of fellowship for our moms who work so hard.

Trunk or Treat

On October 31st our parking lot will be full of children dressed up for Halloween! Sign up to host a trunk or to donate candy. See you there!

Donations

A few generous church members graciously asked how they could support Immanuel's teachers. Scan this code to be directed to their wish list. Thank you so much for your support!



SCAN ME



THE PRESCHOOL SCOOP

OCTOBER 2025



Immanuel Lutheran

With cooler weather we can finally spend more time outside in the afternoon! We would appreciate more toys for the sandbox and outside (look at yard sales).

2025-2026 School Theme:
"Let's Make a Joyful Noise"
Based on Psalm 98:4



Prayer requests:
Oliver's Mom and Cindy's dad



Trunk or Treat! Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m.
Many Preschool families like our safe and fun Trunk or Treat! Please consider hosting a trunk for our families!



co-directors: Jean Kempe and Angie Knapp

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

By Gina Bertaina



Trunk or Treat
Trunks and candy needed!

Trunk or Treat is approaching
and we need volunteers to
show up with decked out
trunks!

Contact Gina if you would like
to participate --

Candy donations are also
greatly appreciated :)

October 31
5:00-7:00pm
Cars show up
between 4-4:30

CLICK THE FLYER TO SIGN UP!



Join us for

Oct 31

**Trunk
or
Treat**

5:00-7:00pm

Candy,
food
trucks,
and fun!

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
5455 Alessandro Blvd, Riverside

Food for purchase provided by Roosevelt Ice Cream and J Jay Tacos



Love Riverside Serve Weekend - October 10-12, 2025



to sign up.

<https://forms.gle/7P2jVe6sCzB7xGXG7>

Friday, October 10



Art Mural & Projects at Arlanza Community Garden

October 10, 2025 (FRI) 4pm-6:30pm

- ① Address: 8700 Cypress Ave, Riverside 92503
30 volunteers needed (ages High School to adult)



Beautification at Bryant Park

October 10, 2025 (FRI) 4pm-6pm

- ② Address: 7950 Philbin Ave, Riverside 92503
20 Volunteers needed (Ages Jr High to adult)

Saturday, October 11



Art Projects & Beautification at Arlanza Community Garden

October 11, 2025 (SAT) 9am-11:30am

- ③ Address: 8700 Cypress Ave, Riverside 92503
40 volunteers needed (ages High School to adult)



Beautification at Rutland Park

October 11, 2025 (SAT) 10am-11:30am

- ④ 7000 Rutland Ave, Riverside 92503
20 volunteers needed (ages JR High School to adult)



Crafts with Seniors @ The Gardens

October 11, 2025 (SAT) 9am-11:30am

- ⑤ 10849 Arlington Ave, Riverside, CA 92505
20 volunteers needed (Family friendly + High School to adult)

Sunday, October 12



Harvesting Produce / Art / Farm to Table at Overflow Farms

October 12, 2025 (SUN) 12pm-3pm

- ⑥ 4850 Jurupa Ave. Riverside 92504 (located behind church)
50 volunteers (Family friendly)

www.loveriverside.org / info@loveriverside.org / (951) 374-0807

SO EASY TO GET INVOLVED WITH SHORT & FUN PROJECTS!

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.LOVERIVERSIDE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

ILCS IS LOOKING FOR: *Admissions Coordinator*

10 hours per week, set schedule

Job duties include but are not limited to:

- Serving as the first point of contact for prospective families who inquire about preschool and/or elementary
- Responding promptly to email inquiries, providing detailed information about the enrollment process
- Scheduling and conducting tours of the campus
- Preparing and sending admissions information and follow-up materials to interested families
- Collaborating with administrative staff to ensure a smooth transition for new students and families
- Representing ILCS in a Christ-like, professional, and informative manner at all times



IF INTERESTED, PLEASE EMAIL
ALI.FARNAN@ILCS-RIVERSIDE.ORG

ICONS IN TRANSFORMATION



Ludmila Pawlowska's Art is coming to Riverside

Icons in Transformation is a powerful traveling exhibit by Swedish artist **Ludmila Pawlowska**, featuring over 100 contemporary works that reinterpret sacred Christian icons through expressive, mixed-media techniques—coming this fall to **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Riverside**. Any proceeds beyond expenses will benefit Immanuel Schools.

**Opening Event,
Sep 8, 2025:**
Ribbon Cutting at
Immanuel,
followed by a Gala
at Victoria Club,
\$75 each

**Exhibit Open
Saturdays and
Sundays,
Sep 13 – Nov 16**
Free and open
to the public, no
tickets required

**Volunteers
Needed**

**Sponsorship
Opportunities
Available**

For more information, visit immanuelriverside.com/icons

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Schools

5455 Alessandro Blvd | Riverside, CA 92506 | 951-682-7613

[FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT IMMANUELRIVERSIDE.COM/ICONS](https://immanuelriverside.com/icons)

October Calendar

Oct 1 Popcorn Fundraiser
Oct 2 Popcorn Fundraiser ends
Oct 3 1:45 ES Dismissal
Oct 4 Men's Bible Study
Oct 4 Icons in Transformation
Oct 4 CBU Chamber Orchestra
Oct 5 Worship
Oct 5 Voters' Meeting
Oct 5 Icons in Transformation
Oct 6 Boy Scouts Pack meeting
Oct 10 1:45 ES Dismissal
Oct 10 PTL meeting
Oct 11 Poly Homecoming Staging
Oct 11 Women's Bible Study
Oct 11 Icons in Transformation
Oct 12 Worship
Oct 12 Pastor's Bible Study
Oct 12 Reform Class
Oct 12 Confirmation
Oct 12 Icons in Transformation
Oct 12 Boys Scout Bike Rodeo
Oct 13 Read A Long
Oct 13 Troop 176 meeting
Oct 15 Troop 176 Adult Meeting
Oct 16 PS Picture Day
Oct 16 ES Picture Make Up day
Oct 17 PS Picture Day
Oct 18 Men's Bible Study
Oct 18 Icons in Transformation
Oct 19 Worship
Oct 19 3rd grade sings in worship
Oct 19 Pastors' Bible Study
Oct 19 Reform
Oct 19 Icons in Transformation
Oct 20 Troop 176 meeting
Oct 22 PTL Bunco Night
Oct 24 1:45 ES Dismissal
Oct 25 Icons in Transformation
Oct 26 Worship
Oct 26 Pastors' Bible Study
Oct 26 Confirmation
Oct 26 Icons in Transformation

Oct 27 Troop 176 meeting
Oct 31 Trunk or Treat
Oct 31 1:45 ES Dismissal

