

5211 CARPENTER ST.

DOWNERS GROVE, IL

THIS FALL @ IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



2024 Ministry Guide

ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS-RETIREES
AND EVERYONE IN BETWEEN!

CHILDREN &
YOUTH MINISTRY

BIBLE STUDIES &
SMALL GROUPS

SERVICE
OPPORTUNITIES

MUSIC MINISTRY
& MORE!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

MINISTRY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY FROM 9:00-10:00AM

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Lower Level Preschool Classroom

1 year olds through preschoolers gather in the lower level classroom for some Play-doh, markers, and the Gospel! Reach out to hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

Luther Hall/Library

Join Pastor James as he journeys through the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Grab a cup of coffee and your Bible for this deep dive into the Gospel! Reach out to cjames@ilcdg.org for more info.

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT BOOK STUDY

Lower Level Fellowship Hall

Kindergarteners through 6th Graders join the Sunday School fun! These students sing songs, play games, and make crafts following the church lectionary. Reach out to hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

Youth Room

Join DCE Harry Grimes and other parents as we read through Greg Finke's book "Joining Jesus As A Family". Parents and grandparents of all ages are invited. Books are provided by Immanuel. Reach out to hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

MINISTRY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY FROM 4:45-5:30PM

PRESCHOOL COTTAGE

Preschool Playground

Parents bring their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to the playground for family fellowship. The group ends their time with a Bible story each week. Contact allison.folkerts@gmail.com or natalieclinton2@gmail.com for more info.

INTERGENERATIONAL COTTAGE

Chapel Lounge

All ages of adults are encouraged to attend this weekly small group study. Join Sheila Pollock-Bowlin and others as they read through the book "God With Us". Pick-up a copy of the book and join the fun! Contact sbowlin@ilcdg.org for more info.

GRADE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP CONFIRMATION CLASS

3rd Floor Classrooms

Kindergarteners-6th Graders meet upstairs for their youth group! They run around a bit and learn a midweek Bible truth in three different classes. Reach out to hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

Youth Room

7th and 8th grade students participate in this two year process of dialogue and instruction. At least one parent attends the class as well. This includes retreats, service opportunities. and classroom discussions. Contact cjames@ilcdg.org for more info.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL EACH WEEK AT 5:30PM.
DELICIOUS FOOD AND FUN FELLOWSHIP.**

BIBLE STUDIES



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1:00PM

Janice McCrimmon leads this group. They are studying, "Love Rules" by Christina Hergenrader. Please contact Janice at janmccri@aol.com for more info.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 8:00PM

All women are invited to join this intergenerational study led by Lori Wrzesinski. The study is "While You Pray". Contact Lori at peacefultoo@gmail.com for more details.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Mornings at 9:00AM

Join Pastor James as he journeys through the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Grab a cup of coffee and your Bible for this deep dive into the Gospel! Reach out to cjames@ilcdg.org for more info.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Mornings at 7:00AM

All men are welcome to rise 'n shine early for this morning study. Bring you cup of joe, a Bible, and a pencil for good notes. Contact Tom Lithio at tomlithio@gmail.com if you have any questions.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



MEAL TRAIN

Let's come together as a congregation to support individuals and families as they journey through struggles, hard times, or simply facing life's increased challenges. To sign up for the monthly email thread please text/call Kim Walter at 630-484-7813.

AV TEAM

If you're an expert at running your family reunion slideshow, this is the role for you! All ages encouraged to serve. Contact George Hofmann at 630-664-9344 to join our team of volunteers running slides for each of our worship services.

ALTAR GUILD

This group manages the flower arrangements, sets-up for baptisms, etc. If you have a love for things looking just right, contact Arlene Jeschke at 847-508-8104 to join the team!

PRAYER GROUP

Join our weekly prayer group from 7:00-8:00PM on Tuesdays via Zoom. Contact Jim Greve to join this powerful group at jimmyg509@sbcglobal.net

CARD MINISTRY

Can you say it better than Hallmark? Help us share a little hope through the mail. If you want to be on the list of volunteer greeting card writers, reach out to Sarah Oestermeyer at 630-430-4529.

FOOD PANTRY

Our pantry is always looking for donations. The food pantry is open on Thursdays from 10:00AM-12:00PM. But you can drop-off donations at any time... just leave in a grocery bag in the Narthex and we'll get it to the right place!

KIDDO KITS

Just a couple minutes a week needed...stop by the church and restock/organize the "Kiddo Kits" for our young children worshipping with us! To volunteer, contact Liz Davies at 815-666-8493.

WOMEN'S SERVICE GUILD

Open to all women in the congregation, this group helps with dinners, the summer picnic, Easter breakfast, etc. If organizing a party is your thing, reach out to Judy VanHorn at judyvanhorn@comcast.net

SMALL GROUPS

WEEKLY RESET

Sunday Mornings at 11:00AM

Stop by the Youth Room following the late service. The group is reading through the book "God With Us" this fall. Contact AnnaMarie Kamman - annamarietkamman@yahoo.com.

SELAH

Thursday at 7:00PM (Every Other Week)

Head on up to the 3rd floor of Immanuel. The group is reading through the book "God With Us" this fall. Contact Sue Krause - sue.krause@sbcglobal.net.

PARENTS OF COLLEGE YOUTH

Once A Month

Looking for some fellowship with other parents of youth? Come play some cards and chat about the word each month! This group meets off campus. Contact Jon and Sarah Oestermeyer, oesters@att.net.

YOUNG ADULTS (Late 20s/30s)

Every Other Week

Come decompress by the bonfire with good friends. This group meets at the Knaus-Grimes house. We would love to walk through life with you! Contact Harry Grimes at hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

CHANCEL CHOIR

Rehearsals Wednesdays at 7:15PM

Immanuel's Chancel Choir sings twice each month at the 8:00AM service and for special holiday services. Open to high school age through adults. Contact Music Director, Pat Larson at plarson@ilcdg.org.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC GROUPS

The Traditional Worship Services at Immanuel have contributions from groups such as solo musicians, Immanuel Brass, and Sacred Strings. Contact Music Director, Pat Larson at plarson@ilcdg.org.

JOYFUL NOISE

Joyful Noise is a Service Choir for K-6th grades which meets Wednesdays. The main focus of the choir is to serve the church by sharing music during the school year. A secondary focus of the choir is to use music to impress on our students hearts and minds truths of our faith. Contact Music Director, Pat Larson at plarson@ilcdg.org.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Rehearsals Mondays at 6:30PM

Open to anyone high school age and up. This group will focus on preparing music for musical offerings during worship services. Contact Pat Larson at plarson@ilcdg.org.

IMMANUEL PRAISE BAND

Rehearsals Thursdays at 7:00PM

Our Praise Band leads and accompanies the songs at the 10:00AM contemporary service on Sunday morning. Each Sunday the makeup of the band is different but might include, lead singer, backup singers, drums, pianos bass, electric guitars, acoustic, as well as other instruments such as flute, sax, violin, synth, percussion. The group also rehearses Sunday mornings at 9:00AM. Contact George Hoffmann at ghofmann2@gmail.com.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

IMMANUEL YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Sunday Nights from 6:00-8:00PM

High School Youth are invited to come for fellowship and authentic faith conversations. This group meets in the youth room for large group games, a Bible study, and small groups each week. Contact Harry Grimes at hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

ALL TEEN NIGHTS

Events where middle schoolers and high schoolers get together for a fun night of fellowship or service. Sunday, October 15 from 6:00-8:00pm we will meet in the Youth Room for our game night (Pajama Themed). Sunday, December 15 we will carpool together for Christmas Caroling to shut-ins and Immanuel members. Then we'll gather in the Youth Room for a Christmas Party. 4:00-8:00pm for the 15th. Contact Harry Grimes at hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

Registration Closes October 20

Imagine trying deep fried alligator, playing life-size Hungry Hungry Hippos, and worshipping alongside 20,000 fellow Lutherans all in one day. We are excited to attend the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA the week of July 19-23, 2025. Harry Grimes at hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

COLLEGE GROUP (Early 20s)

Rotating Bi-Weekly Meetings

Whether you're attending college, exploring during a gap year, or jumping straight into the workplace, we'd love to have you! Our Young Adult group meets every other week in Downers Grove for Culver's and time to catch up. (Ice cream on church!) The group is also reading through the book God with Us. Contact Harry Grimes at hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS

Our seniors meet monthly for lunch together and an activity or game. Join us from 11:30AM-2:00PM on the second Wednesday of the month in the church's lower level. For more information, please contact the church office at sbowlin@ilcdg.org.

THE LODGE

Dads, retired gentlemen, and college students are invited to attend. Any guy! This men's group gathers for fellowship, accountability, and encouragement. This fall's events include cheering on the Bears (September 29), brewery trivia, and a golf outing. Contact Evan Walter for more info at evanbrockwalter@gmail.com.

QUILTERS

We meet every Monday from 12:30-5:00p.m. at the church. Newbies ALWAYS welcome—no experience necessary! The proceeds of our quilts cover our expenses, and then are donated to a charity selected by the group. Call Maggie Mohr (630-404-4690) or Gloria Friedrich (630-415-6650) with questions.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Sundays Following the Late Service

Stop by Luther Hall for a coffee and pastry treat. This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends of all ages. Interested in supporting the Fellowship Hour? Reach out to Susan Kerr at susanbkerr@sbcglobal.net.

SERVANT EVENTS



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Sunday, September 29 at 6:00PM

IYC students fill and pack care packages for college students and deployed service members. Sign-up to bring something and/or come ready to work assembly-line style as we spread love to others. Contact Harry Grimes at hgrimes@ilcdg.org to add a student's name.

TIE BLANKET EVENT

Wednesday, October 16 at 4:45PM

Join your Immanuel family for this fun intergenerational service project. We will be preparing fleece blankets for Phil's Friends. These blankets will be sent to cancer patients across the country. All ages of children and adults are encouraged to attend this evening.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

IYC High School Servant Event

The IYC high school youth are heading to the FMSC packing plant again! We will be preparing meal kits as a group the evening of Saturday, November 9. Reach out to Harry Grimes at hgrimes@ilcdg.org to sign-up or for more information.

SHUT-IN SECRET SANTA KITS

Wednesday, November 20 at 4:45PM

Join your Immanuel family for our second intergenerational service project of the semester. We will be preparing Christmas goodie-bags for Immanuel shut-ins. Families will then take the name of a shut-in and deliver the gifts as a family. All ages of children and adults are encouraged to attend this evening. Be on the lookout for a donation list as we approach the event.

ADVENT PACKING PARTY

Saturday, November 23 at 9:00AM

The At-Home Family Advent Kits are coming back this year! These kits help families share the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus across DG and beyond. We will need help assembling and wrapping over 160 kits this year. Pastries, coffee, and Christmas music will be provided by Immanuel. Contact hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Immanuel partners with Samaritan's Purse to deliver the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Boxes are distributed in October, and filled boxes are brought by the congregation to the Narthex in early November. To help with this initiative, please contact Sarah Oestermeyer at 630-430-4529.

GROVE EXPRESS

Thursday, November 28

The Lodge is hosting an outreach opportunity on Thanksgiving morning. But this event isn't just for the men of the congregation--bring the whole family! We will have a stop or two along the 5K route to share a little joy and the Gospel with the DG community. Contact Evan Walter for more info at evanbrockwalter@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Middle & High School Servant Event

Jr. and Sr. High youth will gather together the afternoon of Sunday, December 15. Make sure to wear your most festive Christmas sweater! We will carpool from Immanuel to visit shut-ins and senior members. This is a great event to bring a friend to. Our annual Christmas Party will follow caroling. Reach out to Harry Grimes at hgrimes@ilcdg.org for more info.