



Journey Connection

May 2023

Mission Statement of Immanuel Church

To be and to make Spirit-filled followers of Christ who shine the light of God's love to the world.

Welcome to Immanuel Church!

We at Immanuel are on a joyful journey – with Jesus – to disclose His presence in the world and His love for all people. With Humility, we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of their relationship with Jesus, and even if they doubt His reality. And we invite **everyone** to join us, **regardless** of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, family status, or the brokenness of their lives. On this journey there are no judgments – just Jesus. Whoever you are, **you are welcome** to join us!

If you desire information about becoming more involved in Immanuel Church, please contact Rev. Rich Vincent pastor@immanuelwestbend.org or Jenny Landowski director@immanuelwestbend.org or leave a message at the church office (262) 334-2886



A WORD, OR TWO FROM OUR PASTOR...

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel United Church of Christ,

Wow! This is my first pastor's letter in months. It's been a long while since I've offered some words in our Journey Connection. In some ways, it feels like just a moment. In other ways, it feels like a lifetime ago.

When I think about all the ways the last few months could have gone, I am overwhelmed by gratitude. Certainly, this was the hardest physical gauntlet I've ever endured. There were weeks and weeks where swallowing was painful, eating was difficult, and moving was exhausting. Simply changing position in bed was agonizing. And because I prefer to suffer alone (and quite frankly had little energy to do otherwise), I was alone (by choice) for weeks on end.

But I knew something that kept my spirits up in the darkest hours. I knew that there was a boatload of people praying for me. I knew that so many were patiently supporting me. And so, in the darkest hours, I had reason to fight and push through. I could fight because you stood with me. I could fight because "my people" – my family, my church, my friends – were with me in spirit and hoping for the best. I can't overestimate how much every act of support and kindness meant to me. By the grace of God, I am alive because of it. And by the grace of God, I hope to make the best of this new lease on life.

So, as I stumble forward in this new stage of life, I do it with renewed confidence and great gratitude. I have been given more years and I hope to use them to joyfully grow in grace and love. My immune system is still low. My sense of taste is still off. My energy is still replenishing. Every two weeks or so I will go in for bloodwork and evaluation. In a few weeks, I can take my first vaccine. By December (a year from the transplant), I should have all my vaccines and life will be as close to normal as I can get.

I am rambling. I guess my point is this: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! You have been a lifeline to me. Your love, care, and support sustained me through my darkest hour. I am eternally grateful, and I give thanks to God, and I give thanks for you!

Grace and peace,
Rich



Thoughts from our Pastoral Assistant / Director of Ministries

As we celebrate with grateful hearts the return of our beloved Pastor Rich, indeed we also need to give thanks for Rev. Steve Hecky, Rev. John Helt, and Rev. Jim Schleif who, through their heartfelt messages and words of encouragement, shepherded us through the 5 months without our pastor. Each one of them brought fresh energy, meaningful worship, and a sense of hope as we patiently waited for the return of Pastor Rich. What a blessing for Immanuel Church! Yet, the blessing was twofold, as each of these pastors shared, what started as pulpit supplying out of a sense of obligation, turned out to be so much more, thanks to the congregation they were serving. They were grateful for what they experienced within this community of Spirit-filled followers of Christ who long to shine the light of God's love to the world and would welcome the chance to return some day.

For Pastors Steve, John, and Jim...for our hard-working staff...for our devoted church leadership...and for your faithfulness...I lift my hands in thanksgiving!!! For the return of Pastor Rich and his restored health, I say, Praise the Lord!

Immanuel means, God with us. What is God? God is Love. Where can we find this Love? Right here, at Immanuel Church...the Spirit is in us.

In Love,
~Jenny



A Note From our Choir Director...

Hymn of Promise

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity;
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

This month marks the last of our choir rehearsals and ministry before we take a break during the summer months. I am so grateful for the choir members I have had the privilege to sing and ring with since September! We have had a wonderful “year “of sharing music and growing together.

Final rehearsals before summer break:

Ladies Ensemble: April 25th.

Adult Choir: May 2nd.

Handbell Ensemble: May 16th

To Immanuel's choir members: THANK YOU for your time, your talents, your resources, your input and ideas and your patience. Your community is so precious in the way we lift each other up in song and prayer. Now my prayer is that our summer break will be a time of rest and rejuvenation, filled with warm and sunny days (keep your fingers crossed!!), and that we will come back together again as the summer ends ready for new songs to sing and ring!

To Immanuel's soloists: THANK YOU for the blessings of your music as you share your talents with us in worship. Your musical individuality is a beautiful part of ministry at Immanuel.

On Sunday, May 7th, Immanuel will hold a Ministry Fair. Tables representing ministry at Immanuel in it's many forms will be set up between services and also after the second service.

Immanuel's Music Ministries will be represented: Adult Choir, Ladies Ensemble, Handbell Ensemble, Worship Team, Children's Choir and information for soloists and small ensembles. Do you have an interest in these musical worship opportunities? Maybe questions about schedules or time commitment? Would you like to know what it feels like to ring some of our handbells? Of course!!! Please find our table and come talk to us! We look forward to seeing you!

I am always happy to talk about music ministry at Immanuel church, receive your comments and answer any questions you may have.

Blessings and peace,

~ Beverly Mark

bevbeemark@gmail.com 920-242-7318



Offering Altar

The Offering Altar is located in the Narthex, just outside the Sanctuary. On it you will find the Giving Church; monetary donations can be slipped in through the slit on top. There is also information about Immanuel Church and its ministries along with additional contribution envelopes. If you are a visitor and would like us to contact you, please fill out the information form and drop it in the Giving Church and be sure to help yourself to a welcome packet. Also available on the Offering Altar are Prayer Request forms; prayers dropped into the Giving Church will be shared with the SonShine Gals during communal prayer time. If we can be of further assistance to you, please contact Jenny Landowski at 262-334-2886 or director@immanuelwestbend.org



Financial Secretary...

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

I'm excited that it's May which means that it's the start of lawn mowing season and no more receiving large snowplowing invoices for the church parking lots and sidewalks.



Thank you for your continued support to Immanuel's ministries of providing meaningful life changing worship; nurturing persons in their faith journey; and witnessing to our faith in service beyond ourselves.

As a reminder, the 2023 Immanuel Budget is \$431,868.

If you have any questions regarding Immanuel finances or would like to discuss your giving, please note my regular office hours are on Tuesdays from 9am-3pm. You can also reach me via my email, finance@immanuelwestbend.org or leave a message on the church phone 262,334-2886. I welcome the opportunity to chat with you.

Blessings,
Karen

March 2023 Monthly Finance Report

	Month	YTD
Total Income	\$21,656.09	\$102,827.27
Total Expenses	<u>\$32,740.97</u>	<u>\$119,196.04</u>
Income vs Expenses	\$-11,084.88	\$-16,368.77

Property update

Due to the construction on main street, our church parking lot will be home to Music on Main this summer, on Thursday evenings, starting June 1st. The Downtown West Bend Association will be sponsoring the event. The association will make a donation each time they utilize our property between June 1st thru August 17th.

Preparation has already started. A storage container was delivered and placed on the south end of our lot. Electrical work was completed so that Music on Main will have the power they need. They will be drawing power from our church, but it will be metered, and we will be reimbursed for any electricity they use.



All expenses will be funded by the Downtown Association. We will keep updating as more info becomes available.

On another note, TDS, a fiber optic company approached us to ask for permission to install a pedestal on our property between our church and the Circle of Friends house. This pedestal will contain fiber network cable etc. They have agreed to pay us \$10,000.00 plus landscaping fees to complete this project.

Our leadership approved that request and we have received those funds from the TDS company.

Dave Hammen
Property Committee



J.A.M. Time Celebration Sundae!



Calling all J.A.M. Time Shine Brites, Site Leaders, Shepherds, and Helpers!
You are invited to the courtyard (weather pending*)
on Sunday, May 14th immediately following our song with the Worship Team
at the beginning of the Journey Worship Service.

Please join us to celebrate another year together!

It has been a wonderful year of growth for all our J.A.M. Time Shine Brites!
Thank you to each and every one of you who has donated your time, support,
and passion for spreading God's word to our next generation!

Be on the lookout for upcoming J.A.M. Time news in the Journey Connection
and have a great summer everyone!

***Should the weather be inclement, we will celebrate in Fellowship Hall.**

CONFIRMATION

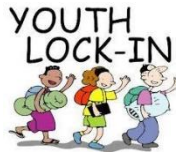
On May 14th at 10:30am we will be joining the J.A.M. Time group in celebrating the last day of this years J.A.M Time and Confirmation programs.

On May 21st at the 9am service we will be celebrating this year's Confirmands as they take the next step on their faith journey and get confirmed. Please keep Evelynnn, Johanna, Marissa, Riley, Sam & Zach in your prayers as they approach this big day!



YOUTH GROUP

The Youth had a fantastic time at the lock-in! We played lots of fun games and had yummy snacks. A special thank you to our wonderful chaperons who helped make the lock-in fun!



**Saturday May 6th 8:30am-1:30pm ~
Spring cleanup and Lunch**



If you are interested in helping with Chaperoning youth activities, feel free to contact me at church.

Johanna Landowski
(262) 334-2886

youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org

SonShine Gals

The SonShine Gals is an eclectic group of women who share a common thread of growing together in faith and love through books studies, video discussions and prayer.

The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 10:00am-11:30am.

Currently we are reading...

When "Spiritual But Not Religious" Is Not Enough
Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church
by Lillian Daniel

If you have any questions or are interested in joining us,
please contact Jenny Landowski

Wise Guys May 18th

Wise Guys is our men's ministry that meets on **the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00pm**. Fellas are invited to attend this social time including dinner and a short discussion. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the main offices. All are welcome; bring a friend!

Inquirers Dinner

Have you been visiting Immanuel Church and wish to learn more about us?
Are you interested in becoming a member?

JOIN PASTOR RICH AND JENNY FOR DINNER

Tuesday, May 16th at 5:30pm

We would love to share "our story", mission, vision and values
as well as get to know you better!

If interested in attending, please contact

Jenny Landowski 262-334-2886 or

director@immanuelwestbend.org



Family Game Day!

Family Game Day was a Success! We had 6 families joining in fun family games.

This group has a new name!

F.I.T. (families interacting together)

So, be sure to keep a lookout for more information on our next

F.I.T. get-together!



BUY A BOARD – BUILD A CHAIR!

Immanuel's Courtyard is a beautiful space to be in the warmer months, therefore in an effort to make it more user friendly, we'd like to put some sturdy Adirondack Chairs out there. The cost for materials is roughly \$300;

labor is being donated in kindness. 😊

Here's how you can help... "Buy a Board" for \$20 so we can "Build a Chair". Cash or checks made out to Immanuel with a designation of "Buy a Board" can be put in your regular giving envelope or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for considering this!



Adopt a Church Garden Thank You Immanuel Gardeners!!

Many thanks to the following folks who have offered to tend to Immanuel's gardens this summer...

Courtyard – The Schleif and Russell Families

Garden outside office windows – Kathy Thielke

Two gardens on each side of office parking lot – Lynn Hammen

Two small corner gardens by main entrances – Onward Services

Garden on east side of church – Glenn Radzinski and Jackie Nieman

Garden by west parking lot door – Karri Michell

Garden on north side of church – Sophie Landowski

We certainly appreciate their green thumbs!!



Prayer Requests

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ~Philippians 4:6

If you have a special prayer that you would like lifted up on your behalf, feel free to fill out one of the Prayer Request forms located on the Offering Alter and deposit it into the Giving Church or email it to Jenny at

director@immanuelwestbend.org.

The SonShine Gals will respectfully include your joys and concerns within their prayers.

RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARDS (formally known as SCRIP)

Raise Right Gift Card sales benefit our Joyful Journeys Ministries; members of the India Task Force will have cards on hand on Sunday mornings; you can find them seated at the table across from the church mailboxes. They can also take your special orders; forms can be found in mailbox # 79. Completed forms with payment made out to Joyful Journeys can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or brought into the main office Monday thru Thursday between 9am-3pm.

Orders this month will be called in on **Monday, May 15th**.

Full Shelf Pantry

He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

John 21:17

In support of West Bend's Full Shelf Pantry throughout the month of May, we will be collecting

Mac & Cheese



12 count egg cartons are needed on a monthly basis

Items can be placed in the bins outside the main office, or cash/checks (payable to Immanuel) can be put in your giving envelope with notation designated to Food Pantry.

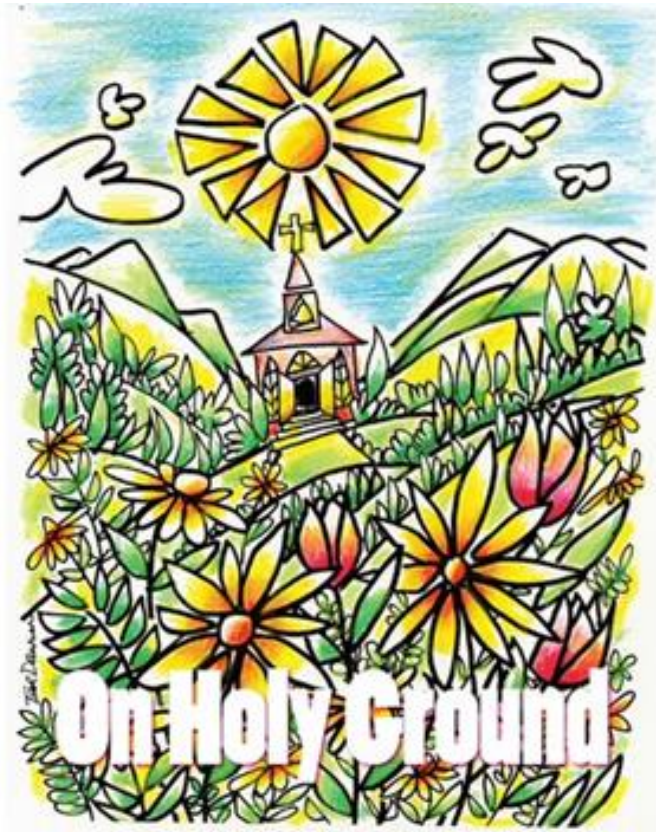
Any questions see Jenny or Johanna Landowski



**STRENGTHEN
THE CHURCH**

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



~Joyful Journeys, Inc.~

An outreach ministry founded and operated
by members of Immanuel Church.

OUR MISSION: *to establish and or operate programs and facilities that will assist impoverished and needy people whose lives are challenged by current life circumstances, by helping to provide for their immediate basic needs and to bring them hope and promise for a brighter future.*

Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Circle of Friends

Bundles of Undies, Sacks of Socks

Easter Baskets

Thank you to everyone who contributed Sacks of Socks and Bundles of Undies to our Easter Baskets; your donations will certainly be appreciated by the individuals visiting the Circle of Friends Shoppe!



INDIA NEWS



Joyful Journeys Marshall School in India, although run by Christians, is not a Christian School; the students and staff consist of Hindus, Muslims, Budist, and Christians. The purpose of the school is to provide an education to the underprivlidged children in the village of Madhavapatnam; Christian values are portrayed through actions of love and service, not through curriculum.

However, once a year we host a Vacation Bible School and invite all the kids within the community to attend; it is at this 3 day event that stories of Jesus are shared and songs of Christ's love are sung. This year there were 400 children in attendance! We praise the Lord, as Spirit-filled followers of Christ, for this opportunity to shine the light of God's love to the world!



Tending the Flock



PLEASE KEEP OUR IMMANUEL CHURCH FAMILY IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE LISTED BELOW. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE, OR WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE PRAYER REQUESTS.

Yellow Roses:

Bill Altschwager, Val Borresen, Sue Calhoun, Helen Keey, Carol King, Jerry Kuckuk, Karen Lewis, Judy Muelling, and Joan Stenstrup.

Health Concerns:

Steve Feit, Bruce Kapanke, Jessica Rose, Wayne Seideman, Tom Wilson, and Pastor Rich.

Those of us who are suffering from depression and/or addiction:

Serving in the military:

Jackson Raad, Rebecca Gerard Shanahan and her husband, David.

Continuing their education:

Abby Frederick, Claire Gustafson, Kendra Kapanke, Alec Komro, Kailyn Komro, Kelton Kreis, Even Mastenbrook, Lexi McCrillis, Elise Patten, Evan Patten, Julia Raad, Madison Schmitt, Adam Vincent, Quinn Vincent, and Rebecca Kempfer-Witt.

Four Way Covenant Pastor:

Rev. Jim Schleif

Hospice Care

Sue Calhoun

Deaths:

Audrey Schowalter 4/8/2023





Monday May 1st

Tuesday May 2nd

1pm Staff meeting
5pm-6:30pm Citizen Advocates
5:00pm Handbell Ensemble
6:30 pm Adult Choir
7:15 Worship Team Practice

Wednesday May 3rd

2:30pm PEO Book Club
7 pm AA meeting

Thursday May 4th

1pm – 3pm COF Shoppe
5pm India Task Force

Friday May 5th

6:30 pm NA

Saturday May 6th

8:30am-1:30pm
Youth Group Spring Cleanup
10am–noon COF Shoppe

Communion Sunday May 7th

9 and 10:30 am Worship
9am Shine

10am Ministry Fair

Family Worship

NO J.A.M. Time,
& Confirmation



Monday May 8th

12pm Boundaries

Tuesday May 9th

3:15pm Finance Meeting
5pm-6:30pm Citizen Advocates
5:00pm Handbell Ensemble

Wednesday May 10th

7 pm AA meeting

Thursday May 11th

10am SonShine Gals
5:30 pm Church & Ministry
6:30 pm Consistory

Friday May 12th

6:30 pm NA

Saturday May 13th

Sunday May 14th

9 and 10:30 am Worship
J.A.M. Time
Celebration Sundae!

Monday May 15th

Tuesday May 16th

1pm Staff meeting
5pm-6:30pm Citizen Advocates
5pm Handbell Ensemble
5:30 Inquirers Dinner
6pm Worship Team Practice
7pm PEO

Wednesday May 17th

5pm-7pm COF Shoppe
7 pm AA meeting

Thursday May 18th

6pm Wise Guys

Friday May 19th

6:30 pm NA

Saturday May 20th

10am–noon COF Shoppe

Confirmation Sunday May 21st

9am and 10:30am Worship



Confirmation

Confirmands will be recognized
at 9am

Monday May 22nd

Tuesday May 23rd

5pm-6:30pm Citizen Advocates

Wednesday May 24th

7 pm AA meeting

Thursday May 25th

Friday May 26th

6:30 pm NA

Saturday May 27th

Sunday May 28th

9 and 10:30 am Worship

Monday May 29th

Office Closed

Tuesday May 30th

5pm-6:30pm Citizen Advocates
6pm Worship Team Practice

Wednesday May 31st

7 pm AA meeting



Are Monday – Thursday 9am – 3pm

Altar Flowers



Would you like to help beautify our worship services by donating flowers for the altar? You can celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or place them in memory of a loved one. The **sign-up sheet** is posted outside of Pastor Rich's office.

Please **fill out an order form and**

return it with a check for \$30.00 to the church office. After the second service, the sponsoring member can take the flowers home.

This month our flowers have been donated by:

May 7th: June Sommerfeld in celebration of her granddaughter Faith's 17th birthday.

May 14th: Rich & Bonnie Gerner in memory of Bonnie's daughter Dawn Schloemer.

May 21st: Georgia Kletti in celebration of her Daughter & Son-laws 7th Wedding Anniversary.

May 28th: Dan & Rachel Gerard in celebration of Sam & Nora Gerard's birthdays.

BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY

Kael Lutter 1st

Harley Pieffle 1st

Pastor Rich 1st

Mike Mattek 3rd

Madison Schmitt 3rd

Rhett Russell 4th

Stuart Swanson 6th

Penny Norman 7th

Owen Gluck 8th

Candi Martin 8th

Lora Buck 12th

Emilie Nieman 12th

Valerie Pabon 12th

Jessica Frederick 14th

Jamieson Lusty 15th

Pat Otten 15th

Emily Fredrick 18th

Patricia Sommer 19th

Braden House 22nd

Kelton Kreis 22nd

Julia Raad 22nd

Mary Jo Norgel 27th

Laura Gustafson 28th

Richard Lehmann JR. 28th

Donald Maurer 29th



THANK YOU FOR SERVING & LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE THIS MONTH!

GREETERS:

May 7	9:00 am Jim & Anne Mari Peters 10:30 am Dave & Lynn Hammen
May 14	9:00 am Maggie Seideman, Max Sommerfeld 10:30 am Fred & Barb Seefeldt
May 21	<i>9:00 am <u>WE STILL NEED SOMEONE</u></i> 10:30 am Mary Ellen Doge
May 28	9:00 am Nancy Naab, Barb Styduhar, Esther Kohler 10:30 am Mary Ellen Doge

USHERS:

	Head Usher: Gary McCrillis
May 7	9:00 am Max Sommerfeld, Maggie Seideman, Rich Gerner 10:30 am Kreis Family
May 14	9:00 am Michael Bath 10:30 am Elaine Radzinski
May 21	9:00 am Mike & Chris Soener 10:30 am Ben & Ashley Russell
May 28	9:00 am Wayne & Rosemary Seideman <i>10:30 am <u>WE STILL NEED SOMEONE</u></i>

READERS:

May 7	9am Jeanne Forester	10:30 Rachel Gumm
May 14	9am Maggie Seideman	10:30 Julie Feit
May 21	9am Russ Demmon	10:30 Jan Nesladek
May 28	9am John Buck	10:30 Karen Grace Strobach

COFFEE MAKERS:

May 7	Bonnie Gerner
May 14	Jim & Anne Mari Peters
May 21	Tracy & Joe Halfman
May 28	Mary Demmon

Fellowship Hour:

May 7	Ministry Fair
May 14	<i><u>WE STILL NEED SOMEONE</u></i>
May 21	Confirmation
May 28	<i><u>WE STILL NEED SOMEONE</u></i>

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

May 7	Adult Choir
May 14	Larry Wheelock
May 21	Handbell Ensemble
May 28	Larry Wheelock

Communion Servers: May 7

9:00	– Amy Schmitt & Al Vredeveld
10:30	– Shaun & Heather Tanner

Staying connected with Immanuel through social media...

Website – <https://www.immanuelwestbend.org/>

Facebook – Immanuel United Church of Christ

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelUCCWestBend>

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

501 Walnut Street, West Bend, WI 53095 (262-334-2886)

Email address: office@immanuelwestbend.org

Immanuel Website: www.immanuelwestbend.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ImmanuelWestBend/

MINISTERS: All of us

PASTOR: Reverend Richard Vincent (pastor@immanuelwestbend.org)

PASTORAL ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES: Jenny Landowski
(director@immanuelwestbend.org)

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Johanna Landowski (office@immanuelwestbend.org)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Karen Zachow (finance@immanuelwestbend.org)

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Mitch Schleif

(excited4jam@immanuelwestbend.org)

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES and CONFIRMATION LEADER:

Johanna Landowski (youthgroup@immanuelwestbend.org)

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Chris Witt (shine@immanuelwestbend.org)

ORGANIST/ MUSIC DIRECTOR: Beverly Mark bevbeemark@gmail.com

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: Larry Wheelock lwheels@icloud.com

WORSHIP TEAM LEADER: Emilie Nieman Witt emilie51288@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Terry Christie (christieeric35@gmail.com)

CUSTODIAN: Sophia Landowski

CHILDCARE SUPERVISORS: Tobias Halfman

ELDERS: Rob Sheehy – President, Jan Nesladek

Elaine Radzinski, Amy Schmitt – Vice-President

DEACONS: Tracy Halfman, Becky Kay – Secretary, Gary McCrillis,
Mitchell Schleif, Christopher Arndt, and Ben Russell.

Finance Committee: Karen Zachow - Financial Secretary,
Julie Feit, Tama Gluck, Dave Hammen, Doug Stewart

Immanuel's Team

