

April 2021
Issue 04-21



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Mission:

In response to God, who first reached down to us—the mission of First Immanuel Lutheran Church is to reach up to God, reach into each other and reach out to the world.

Easter....So What?

Easter used to be a bigger deal in our culture. Schools designed spring breaks around Easter. Nearly everybody attended a worship service on Easter, especially at sunrise. Easter breakfast at church was an annual event for the family. Easter used to be the largest Sunday for worship. In many parts of our nation Mother’s Day now eclipses Easter. Many today are asking, “What’s the big deal about Easter?” There’s no Easter gift exchanges, no Easter office parties, no Easter lawn ornaments.

Easter is a big deal for a number of reasons. Here are just a few with some thoughts to ponder:

† **Easter is a big deal because the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead proves that His sacrifice was accepted by the heavenly Father!**

- What affect does it make in your life to know that you no longer have to earn the love of the Father?
- Jesus didn’t only encounter physical death on the cross. He literally suffered hell (the total separation from the heavenly Father) on our behalf. How does this relentless love of God impact your being?

† **Easter is a big deal because we are destined for heaven!**

- We cannot work our way to heaven. That should not cause us to worry as we believe in Jesus, who opened heaven for us by His life, death and resurrection. What comfort do you have knowing that heaven is waiting for you?
- It seems we are more concerned with the demands of this world and all our obligations than we are about the glory of heaven. How often do you think about heaven? Easter gives us the privilege to look beyond this life without fear. We long for the real life that God has prepared for us through His victorious Son.

† **Easter is a big deal because we have new life today!**

- Through the power of God’s Word in the waters of baptism we have been called by the Holy Spirit into a lively faith. As we await the gift of heaven we joyfully live the faith the Lord planted in our hearts. The resurrection of Jesus gives us new life.

What’s the big deal about Easter? Life...real and eternal! Join with your redeemed brothers and sisters in worship on Easter!
Christ is Risen indeed!

Pastor Raasch



Holy Week At First Immanuel Lutheran Ministries

Wednesday, March 31st

- Safer At Church Holy Week & Easter 10:30 am
First Immanuel (for age 65+/health concerns)

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

- Traditional 11:30 am & 6:30 pm First
Immanuel*
- Contemporary 6:30 pm River of Life
(Each Service With Communion)

Good Friday, April 2nd

- Tre-Ore Noon First Immanuel*
- Tenebrae 6:30 pm First Immanuel*
- Contemporary 6:30 pm River of Life
- 4:19 pm @ FirstMin.Church

Easter Sunday, April 4th

- Sunrise 7:00 & 8:00 am CUW Bluff
- Traditional 7:30 & 9:00 am First Immanuel* &
8:00 am River of Life
- Contemporary 10:35 am First Immanuel* &
9:30 & 10:45 am River of Life
- 4:19 pm @ FirstMin.Church

***Worship LiveStreamed**



Day of Prayer

FIRST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES

DAY OF PRAYER
SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD
6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

JOIN IN PRAYER
AT FIRST IMMANUEL

FILL THE DAY WITH
PLENTIFUL PRAYERS!



Sign up online at <https://www.filministries.org/worship-sign-up/>
or in the narthex

School Auction ~ May 7

**BEYOND
BOLD! GALA**

BIG HATS, BOWTIES AND BLING

MAY 7, 2021

FIRST IMMANUEL SPRING DINNER
RSVP at
<https://fils.ejoinme.org/registration>

WAYS TO HELP

- become a sponsor
- buy raffle tickets
- donate items to be auctioned off
- donate a >\$10 bottle of wine
- make a monetary donation
- volunteer on auction day
- attend the event

Email ideas to auction@fils.org

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL 2021: GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL



The Gideons International started distributing the Word of God in 1908. Today, they have more than 300,000 members—and an untold number of supporters—in 200 countries, territories and possessions across the globe. These dedicated individuals give their time and money to make it possible for others to learn about the love of God by giving them access to His Word. In fact, they have placed or distributed more than 2 billion Bibles and New Testaments around the world . . . and counting Please visit Gideons International's website at www.gideons.org for more information.

Several members of **First Immanuel** and **River of Life** are actively involved in the mission and ministry of **Gideons International**.

We will have the opportunity to learn more about Gideons International during the offering time of our April worship services. Please prayerfully consider supporting this important worldwide ministry with a personal offering to the Mission of the Month.

MILWAUKEE RESCUE MISSION

Are you looking for a practical and simple way to share God's unconditional love with hurting people? Join us as we travel to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission to serve those seeking shelter from the cold and a warm meal in a Christian setting.

We serve the evening meal every Tuesday.

The group leaves FIL at 3 pm, and we arrive back by 6:30 pm, or you can meet us there. Up to six volunteers are needed for each visit.

Since the MRM opened back up to volunteers after COVID19, many have yet to return. They serve hundreds of meals daily and the kitchen staff truly appreciate volunteer help. You will even be invited to enjoy a delicious meal between serving, and the food is excellent!

This is a wonderful REACHGroup opportunity to Reach Out in service together!

If you are interested, contact
Karl Roeske at kroeske@fils.org or call the church
office at 377-6610

Thank YOU from Lutheran Hour Ministries

The following letter was recently received in response to our January Mission of the Month offering to Lutheran Hour Ministries:

Dear friends in Christ: You have planted a seed for the Gospel at a critical time. Thank you for your generous gift of \$5438.13 in support of Lutheran Hour Ministries' outreach programs in the US and more than 50 nations.

Throughout Lent and Easter, you will notice increased media focus on Jesus—not only in Christian outlets, but in secular ones, too. Some dig in to aspects of the Bible. Others explore Him as an historical figure. Some might examine archaeological artifacts. Regardless of motive or approach, that attention will cause those who don't know Him to wonder, *Who is Jesus? And thanks to you, the ministry will be ready to respond to them with the Gospel.*

We appreciate you and keep you in our prayers. Thanks you for allowing the Lord to use you as He changes eternity for others.

In Jesus,
Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

~UPDATED Communion Schedule~

First Immanuel (FIL): On 1st and 3rd Sunday, Communion is at 5:00pm, 7:30am, 9:00am and 10:35am

River of Life (ROL): On 1st and 3rd Sunday, Communion is at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 10:45am

Please sign up for Holy Week
and weekend worship at
www.filministries.org/worship-sign-up/

1
11:30am &
6:30pm Maundy
Thursday
Traditional
Service w/
comm (FIL)
6:30pm Maundy
Thursday
Contemporary
Service w/
comm (ROL)

2 12:00pm
Good Friday
Tre-Ore (FIL)
6:30pm Traditional
Tenebrae Worship
(FIL)
4:19pm Good Friday
Worship
@Firstmin.Church
6:30pm
Contemporary
Tenebrae Worship
(ROL)

3
6:00am-
6:00pm
Day of Prayer
(FIL)
9:00-11:00am
Drive Through
Easter Egg
Hunt (ROL)

4 EASTER SUNDAY

7:00am Outdoor Sunrise Worship on the Bluff (CUW)
7:30am Trad. Worship (FIL)
8:00am Outdoor Sunrise Worship on the Bluff (CUW)
8:00am Traditional Worship Service (ROL)
9:00am Traditional Worship Service (FIL)
9:30am Café Cont. Worship (ROL)
10:35am Contemporary Worship Service (FIL)
10:45am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)
4:19pm Easter Worship @ Firstmin.Church

5
10:00am &
7:00pm
Stephen
Ministry

No School

6
2:45pm
Rooted—Kids
Ministry
3:00pm
Serve a Meal—
MRM

7
9:00am
Adult Bible Study
10:30am Safer at
Church Service (FIL)
5:30pm
Faith Education
7:00pm
Adult Bible Study
7:15pm
High School Youth
Bible Study

8
9:00am
Mom to Mom
(online)
7:00pm
Women in the
Word Bible
Study (FIL)

9
6:00am
Breakfast Bible
Study

10
5:00pm
Traditional
Worship
Service (FIL)

11 7:30am Traditional Worship (FIL)
8:00am Traditional Worship (ROL)
8:45am Adult Bible Class (FIL)
9:00am Traditional Worship (FIL)
9:00am Adult Bible Study (ROL)
9:30am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)
10:35am Contemporary Worship (FIL)
10:45am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)

12
Newsletter
Deadline

13
2:45pm
Rooted—Kids
Ministry
3:00pm
Serve a Meal—
MRM
7:00pm
LWML

14 9:00am
Adult Bible Study
10:30am Safer at
Church Service (FIL)
5:30pm Faith
Education
7:00pm Adult Bible
Study
7:15pm High School
Youth Bible Study

15
7:00pm
Women in the
Word Bible
Study (FIL)

16
7:30am
Men's Bible
Study (FIL)
5:00pm
Traditional
Worship
Service (FIL)

18
7:30am Traditional Worship (FIL)
8:00am Traditional Worship (ROL)
8:45am Adult Bible Class (FIL)
9:00am Traditional Worship (FIL)
9:00am Adult Bible Study (ROL)
9:30am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)
10:35am Contemporary Worship (FIL)
10:45am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)

19
7:00pm
Stephen
Ministry

20
2:45pm
Rooted—Kids
Ministry
3:00pm
Serve a Meal—
MRM
7:00pm
Board of Lay
Leaders
Meeting

21
9:00am
Adult Bible Study
10:30am Safer at
Church Service (FIL)
5:30pm
Faith Education
7:00pm
Adult Bible Study
7:15pm
High School Youth
Bible Study

22
9:00am
Mom to Mom
(online)
7:00pm
Women in the
Word Bible
Study (FIL)

23
5:00pm
Traditional
Worship
Service (FIL)

25 7:30am Traditional Worship (FIL)
8:00am Traditional Worship (ROL)
8:45am Adult Bible Class (FIL)
9:00am Traditional Worship (FIL)
9:00am Adult Bible Study (ROL)
9:30am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)
10:35am Contemporary Worship (FIL)
10:45am Café Contemporary Worship (ROL)

26

27
2:45pm
Rooted—Kids
Ministry
3:00pm
Serve a Meal—
MRM
6:30pm
Endowment
Meeting

28 9:00am
Adult Bible Study
10:30am Safer at
Church Service (FIL)
5:30pm Faith
Education
7:00pm Adult Bible
Study
7:15pm High School
Youth Bible Study

29
7:00pm
Women in the
Word Bible
Study (FIL)

30

FIRST IMMANUEL DIVORCE MINISTRIES

Is divorce tearing your family apart?
Are you trying to cope with the changes divorce brings?
Are your children hurting /confused from these changes?
Is there pain among your friends, family, co-workers?

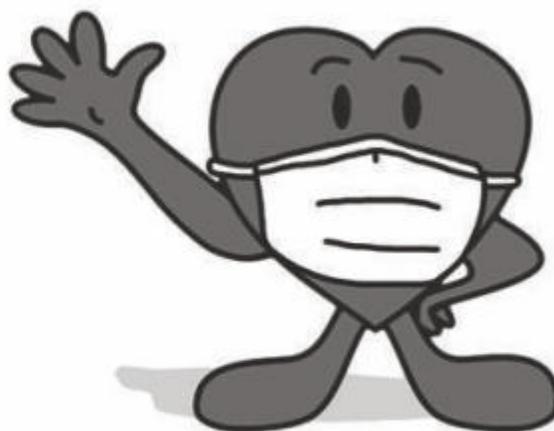
One of our 3 programs may be an answer:

DIVORCE *Care*

DC4KTM
DivorceCare for Kids

**SINGLE &
PARENTING**

**Scheduled to begin
September 2021, each
in-person program meets
one evening a week at
River of Life in Saukville**



Learn more—visit: divorcecare.org or dc4k.org
Or email Barb Meyer: bmeyer@fils.org

Ladies Aid

It has been too long since we have been able to be together as a group.

We, the officers of Ladies Aid, have been thinking it's been way too long and we would like to set up a get together for **May 4th**. Hopefully by then most of us will have had the vaccine for COVID and the threat should be almost over. We are thinking of having a luncheon, but nothing has been decided.

There will be more information in the May newsletter. Have a blessed Easter!



LWML



Rejoice and thank the Lord that the 2019-2021 Biennium Mission Grants have all been paid. In June we will meet in Convention to decide which Mission Grants will be approved for the 2021-2023 Biennium (National).

We at FIL will meet on **April 13** to vote on the Grants and let our South Wisconsin District (SWD) Delegate

know what we decide.

At our meeting we will also discuss business of the Zone and our Society business. The Spring Rally will be held on April 17th at St. John in West Bend. (Socially distanced, with masks and no usual breakfast). Our meeting will be on April 13th in the Fellowship Hall at First Immanuel. All ladies of River of Life and First Immanuel are always welcome to come and help with the Lord's Mission. Have a blessed Easter!

Lutherans for Life

For those who have had an abortion ...

... there is a **Word of Hope** for broken hearts

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."
(Psalm 147:3 ESV)

"I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins."
(Isaiah 43:25 ESV)

As we come to Jesus, we are in truth no longer separated from our God. We are completely forgiven as if we had never sinned. We have the privilege of experiencing "the breadth and length and height and depth" (Ephesians 3:18b ESV) of the love of Christ.

To take that first step toward recovery, call Word of Hope to arrange for a confidential referral.

Chrissie Gillet, PsyD,
Word of Hope Director

888.217.8679
info@word-of-hope.org
www.word-of-hope.org

For more information, please go to www.lutheransforlife.org.



Don't Go It Alone—Stephen Ministry

Many people find it difficult to ask for assistance when they are hurting or facing a life issue that they do not know how to overcome. Whether it be an illness, divorce, the loss of a loved one, loneliness, the loss of job, or some other traumatic event in their life, they feel that asking for help shows a sign of weakness; that they cannot handle the problem on their own. They fear what others might think. They fear of appearing too needy, fear that they are imposing, and/or fear of revealing their struggle and having people realize they don't have it all together after all.

However, when you don't ask for help when you need it, you assume all of a burden that might easily (and gladly) be shared. But you also deprive those who'd love to assist you of the opportunity to do so.

The truth is that we all have God given gifts to share – time, talent, connections, insights, experience, skills, resources, hospitality. And most people love to share them. We can all do so much more together, and with God, than we ever can alone. Too often though we 'tough it out' rather than reaching out to ask for help when we need it most. Fear gets the better of us while depriving others of a chance to show they care and share their gifts.

Asking for help from another person just to talk about your issue can be the first step to feeling better. Talking with another person about what's bothering you can help shed light on the issue and help you discover how to get through a problem. You may find that brainstorming and praying with another person will help you find new ideas to help you move forward. When you know someone has your back, that emotional support can make all the difference.

However, you may be embarrassed to share what's really going on with someone close to you; someone you love and respect. You may find it easier to talk with an individual trained to help that is also comforting and nonjudgmental. An individual that will walk with you though the emotional as well as the spiritual; a Christian care-giver.

At First Immanuel, there is a group of Christian care-givers who have been trained to listen and discuss what you are experiencing. They will not tell you what to do, but will act as a sounding board as you determine your options on how to proceed. They are more than willing to share their gifts and talents of compassion and caring with you. They are dependable and will be there for as long as you need them. They are the Stephen Ministers.

If you would like to learn more about scheduling a Stephen Minister for yourself, a family member, or a friend or neighbor – inside or outside the congregation – please contact Pastor Reichmann at 377-6610. All referrals and discussions with a Stephen Minister are kept in the strictest confidence.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

A note from Pastor Reichmann

Feeling Overwhelmed and Anxious? That is understandable.
The challenges of jobs, health, and relationships are further stressed
by the pandemic and financial uncertainty.

Don't go it alone.

A confidential, caring, fellow Christian listener can help relieve the pressure!

Pastor of Care and Counseling ~ Wil Reichmann
wilreichmann@fils.org 262-377-6610



It Starts at Home, A Practical Guide to Nurturing Lifelong Faith

Author: Kurt Bruner and Steve Stroope

Reviewed by Audrey A. Stockey

Pastors Bruner and Stroope believe children need deep roots for a life-long faith which begins with a warm, loving family intentionally keeping a God-loving home. A home filled with affection, respect, fun, laughter, and togetherness. God designed the home and family to be the primary source of faith for the next generation with the church as a secondary resource supporting it. To help parents and grandparents understand this, they have divided their information into the following parts: Marriage, Parents, Grandparents, and Church with specific steps within each area.

A spiritual formation occurs in homes that are more God-like requiring worshiping, praying, reading the Bible, and attending church. The ideal family devotes itself to each other, loving and giving as God gave to us. Parents and grandparents act as models in providing a loving home so children understand the concept of a loving relationship between God and them. The authors then present three steps for success: 1. Understanding God's ordained purpose and goal, 2. Having effective strategies to be successful, and 3. Using a simple plan to accomplish passing on faith to our children. The basic requirement is a God-honoring marriage as the foundation for passing on this lasting faith.

What are the strategies of a God-Honoring marriage? – These include recognizing love is more than a relationship and getting rid of unrealistic expectations of our partners which allow for the establishment of boundaries meeting each other's needs. Refining communication is another healthy ingredient that rids itself of negative, demanding exchanges. And conflicts should be resolved in a calm, loving tone. Among the most important thing is forgiveness which can restore a smooth relationship. Finally, reigniting intimacy and realizing sex is more than a physical act because it involves the body, soul, and spirit. Stroope then presents a 120-day plan for intentional marriage building, including a present evaluation and togetherness activities for building the future.

How can we be intentional parents? – As parents it is our job to help our children grow up with God, knowing he is a loving God. We also want to inspire and nurture their faith by teaching beliefs and values in our homes. Additionally, we need to recognize that certain spiritual, emotional, and social patterns are passed from one generation to another. Relationships within the home are the key ingredient to accomplishing this. Bruner includes a "report card" a child can complete and then the results can be discussed so improvement can happen. The last element of success depends on a warm, loving, fun and laughter filled environment leading to enjoyment of one another.

Successful parenting means setting standards using God's rules and values, providing a "lens of truth" for our children so they recognize falsehoods and lies in life. Sometimes this involves their making their own mistakes. While they need to understand we are all sinners, children also need to understand God created them in His own image which means all humans share His mental, moral, and social likeness

and we can be guided by reasoned choices; we have free will to choose right from wrong.

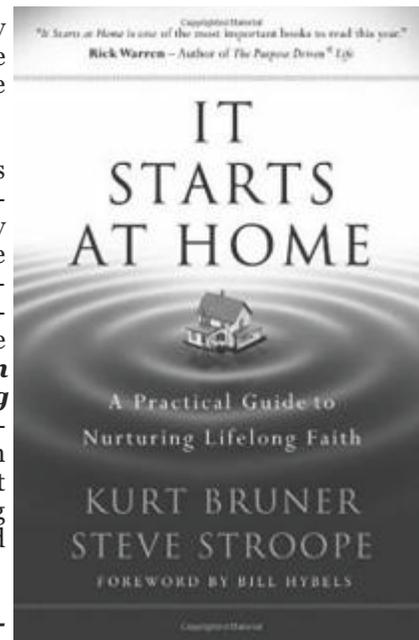
Bruner then makes us aware of teaching opportunities taking place by age and appropriate strategies for each grouping. These windows include 1. **Imprinting** (age birth-6), **Impression** (ages 7-14), and **Coaching** (14-15 to young adulthood). This information is followed by a current evaluation chart leading to age specific plans and activities.

What are grandparents' responsibilities?

– Stroope follows the previous information with responsibilities of grandparents and their role in the lives of their grandchildren. He reminds us the older generation has more wisdom and Christian maturity than younger parents—because they have been over the same route. Like parents, grandparents' job is to inspire and nurture grandchildren's faith. But always they must support and reinforce the role and rules of the parents. The first strategy for grandparents includes affirming each child's uniqueness, giving each one the feeling of being important. Others include taking advantage of teachable moments, loving the child's parents and never undermining them, giving parents a break by doing activities and stay-overs with grandparents, and, finally, helping children realize their parents take top place in their lives. Stroope concludes with an evaluation chart for 120 days of intentional grand parenting, including effective strategies and activities to accomplish it.

Both authors then discuss what is happening in today's society and how church attendance is being affected. They also reiterate what parents and grandparents need to do to have children with life-long faith rather than young people "dropping out" of a Christian life. They also make suggestions for the church fulfilling its supportive, secondary role to family.

This 174-page book is easy to read with concrete suggestions for passing faith on to the next generation. It is especially helpful because it includes the family, children, parents, and grandparents. All information is supported by Biblical quotations and stories stressing the importance of home and family. Author Notes are also part of the book. **It Starts at Home** would make a good book for Reach Groups or just individual parents and grandparents.



FIRST gets more frequent

Following Good Friday and Easter services (premiering at 4:19 pm on those days) services will be dropping online every other week at <http://firstmin.church>. Our first series will be HOPE: Abiding Hope in Exile. Focusing on Jeremiah 29, we'll be examining how we can live as people of hope even in times where we are feeling unsettled and anxious.



Find everything you need at <http://firstmin.church> or follow us on social media @firstmin.church

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP | Friday, April 2 | premiering 4:19pm
EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP | Sunday, April 4 | premiering 4:19pm

River of Life ~ Saukville

We are blessed to be a multi-site congregation, with different places and expressions of God's love. In Saukville, River of Life continues to be a vibrant place where Jesus is worshiped and lives are impacted. We are seeing about 80% of our worshippers back in-person, while also adding an online component through Facebook. (Find us @riveroflifesaukville!) We added a third service in order to make worship comfortable for all, and Dr. Jim Juergensen continues to lead an excellent Bible study from 9:00-9:30 on Sunday mornings. Along with small groups and weekly Bible studies that are underway, we are excited to see what God continues to do in us and through us.



(communion during our 9:30 worship service)

**WORSHIP TIMES @
RIVER OF LIFE
Sundays- 8:00, 9:30, 10:45**

Saukville Community Drive Through EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 3
9 - 11am | River of Life

For families of children ages 3 - 10
Drive through and hunt for eggs from your vehicle,
then receive a box filled with candy-filled eggs,
coloring pages, temporary tattoos and
other items to take home and enjoy!

*If you'd like to donate individually wrapped candy for
the event, you can bring it to the Church Office.*

Church Library News



April 2021

The library has been moved to its new location and is now arranged by the Dewey Decimal System. Signs and the new online catalog are works in progress. Please be sure to sign the checkout card for every item you take and leave the card on the library desk.

New Additions

Dewey	Format	Copies	Title	Author
362.292 ALC	book	1	Alcoholics Anonymous	Alcoholics Anonymous
242.8 KLU	book	1	All Will Be Well: a gathering of healing prayers	Klug, Lyn
616.83 NEK	book	1	Alzheimer's Guide, An: Activities and issues for people who care	Nekola, Pat
306.874 PIP	book	1	Another Country: navigating the emotional train of our elders	Pipher, Mary
259.4 MAX	book	1	Bedside Manners: a practical guide to visiting the ill	Maxwell, Kate
242.68 SYV	book	1	Bible Readings for Caregivers	Syverson, Betty Groth
242.4 PAA	book	1	Biblical Equipping: God's Word in Your World	Paap, David A.
362.196 SCH	book	1	Blue Tattoo Club, The: a breast cancer sisterhood	Schwan, Christy L.
637 MAG	book	1	Book of Choices, The	Magee, Mike
362.1 CAN	book	1	Chicken Soup for the Cancer Survivor's Soul: Healing stories of courage and inspiration	Canfield, Jack and others
248.5 HAU	book	2	Christian Caregiving: a way of life	Haugk, Kenneth C.
248.88 CUS	book	1	Coping with Life after Your Mate Dies	Cushenbery, Donald & Rita
224.5 SWI	book	1	Daniel: God's pattern for the future	Swindoll, Charles
248.4 HIN	book	1	Dealing with Disappointment: How to know joy when life doesn't feel great	Hindley, John
231.7 SHI	book	1	Discerning the Voice of God: How to recognize when God speaks	Shirer, Priscilla
248.86 SAN	book	1	Facing Loneliness: the starting point of a new journey	Sanders, J. Oswald
227.92 WIL KIT	book, DVDs	1	First (1) Peter: A living hope in Christ	Wilkin, Jen
232.92 MAI	book	1	First Christmas: The True and unfamiliar story in words and pictures	Maier, Paul L.
248.4 KNI	book	1	Freedom from Hurtful Behaviors: What the Bible teaches about liberation and renewal	Knippel, Charles T.
362.292 MEY	book	1	Get Your Love One Sober: alternatives to nagging, pleading, and threatening	Meyers, Robert J.
242.4 LAU	book	1	God's Children Never Die: words of comfort as I face the end of my life	Lauersdorf, Richard E.
616.8 MIN	book	1	Happiness is a Choice: a manual on the symptoms, causes and cures of depression	Minirth, Frank B., M.D. and Meier, Paul D. M.D.
362.16 DUN	book	1	Hard Choices for Loving People: CPR, artificial feeding, comfort care, and the patient with a life-threatening illness	Dunn, Hank
616.86 URS	book	1	Healing the Addicted Brain: the revolutionary, science-based alcoholism and addiction recovery program	Urschel, Harold
254 STE	DVD	1	Heart of Stephen Ministry	Stephen Ministries
236.24 ALC	book	1	Heaven study guide	Alcorn, Randy
242.4 LAU	book	1	Help Me, Lord: Comfort as I prepare for my loved ones' death	Lauersdorf, Richard E.
616.99 KNE	book	1	Helping Your Mate Face Breast Cancer: tips for becoming an effect support partner for the one you love during the breast cancer experience	Kneece, Judy C.
305.32 SMA	book	1	Hidden Value of a Man, The: the incredible impact of a man on his family	Smalley, Gary & Trent, John, Ph.D.
261.8 YUA	book	1	Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: sex, desire, and relationships shaped by God's grand story	Yuan, Christopher
646.79 HOM	book	1	Home Sweet Home: How to help older adults live independently	Aid Association for Lutherans
158.1 MIN	book	1	How to Beat Burnout	Minirth, Frank B., M.D.

Helping Young People Feel Valued and Welcome

Written by Pastor Tim Seban

Have you ever walked in somewhere and knew immediately that you didn't belong? Maybe it was a condescending look or the lack of eye contact, but whatever it was you knew you weren't welcome. Now think from a young person's perspective, do they seem to feel welcomed and valued in your community? Sometimes we look down on the children or youth in our midst, but we really could be doing them harm. Today our journey through the 40 Developmental Assets focuses on our communities.

Asset #7: Community Values Youth: A young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.

- "Research shows that young people who perceive that adults in the community value young people are more likely to grow up healthy, exhibit leadership, value diversity, and succeed in school. Only 22 percent of young people, ages 11–18, perceive that adults in the community value their opinions and input..." (Youtherie.com)

Asset #8: Youth as Resources: Young people are given useful roles in the community.

- "Building this asset means valuing young people's talents, skills, interests, and opinions. It means setting aside the belief that adults know more than the younger generation. When you see children and youth as valuable resources, they feel more empowered to contribute to the community, and at school, and home in meaningful, thoughtful ways." (Youtherie.com)

I have the privilege of serving alongside teenagers and jr. high students, and they love it when they can take the lead or do something special. They love it when I hand them the keys to run to my office, or get something out of a storage closet. During VBS they make decorations, lead small groups, and some mature into station leaders. Seeing this maturity is one of my greatest joys.

The Developmental Assets Framework
A Christian perspective on the 40 positive supports and strengths that young people need to succeed.
Used with Permission of the Search Institute



How can all members of First Immanuel and River of Life help make church a place where kids and teens feel at home?

- Be patient (and dare I say happy) with the noise made by children in worship. Parents and students feel great embarrassment when angry eyes turn their way. Be thankful for the noise! These parents are teaching the value of being in worship. Help their kids feel at home.
- When you are engaging in conversation and kids or teens are present, include them and ask them about their life. Church was my second home as adult members of my church took time to invest in me.
- Let your children and grandchildren see you serving and let them serve alongside you.



When you feel welcome, you want to come back. When you feel included in the conversation, you feel you have a voice. Together let's make First Immanuel Ministries and our neighborhoods places where our vibrant young people are welcomed and valued.



Vacation Bible School is BACK!

Join the adventure as we become Rainforest Explorers with Jesus leading the way. Through crafts, games, Bible lessons, music and snacks we will be exploring God's awesome creation and His amazing love for us!

Our expedition is designed for children as young as 4 years old through students who have finished 4th grade. They will be assigned an expedition crew of similar aged explorers.

Cost: Early Bird Registration: \$20 through May 16
Standard Rate: \$25

Register your participant here: <https://tinyurl.com/FILVBSSign-up21>



Be a Part of The Team! You can be a part of the adventure as an Explorer Guide, with opportunities to lead stations during each day's expedition. We need adult Guides to lead games and share a Bible Lesson. Adult leaders will be in all of our 4 year old groups. Teens and jr. high students can be a part of the expedition crew. They can help out at stations or assist our guides in leading a group of explorers!

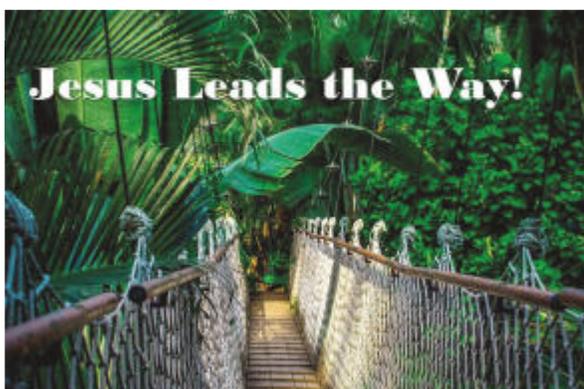
Register to serve at VBS: (finished 5th grade - adult) <https://tinyurl.com/FILVBSVolunteers21>

Safety Guidelines: We are preparing to use COVID safety precautions.



- We are asking that **students and leaders wear masks.**
- If students had a mask exemption for school, we will abide by that exemption.
- We will do our best to keep kids socially distanced by using **individual desks and placing fewer people at tables.**
- **Openings and closing** will be redesigned to keep kids socially distanced. **So we can sing!**
- **Handwashing and hand sanitization** will be encouraged throughout the day.

- **Snacks** will be provided in a safe way reducing touch points.
- We will be using **2 sets of craft supplies** at each craft station so one can be sanitized while the other is in use.
- **Registration, pickup and drop-off will be outside** (weather permitting) an explanation will be sent to all registered families before VBS.



• **Note: Things are changing fast**, if guidelines change, we will make the appropriate adjustments that adheres with our church and school guidelines.

Join the adventure & follow our leader, Jesus at Rainforest Explorer VBS!

Questions? Contact Pastor Tim Seban—tseban@fils.org



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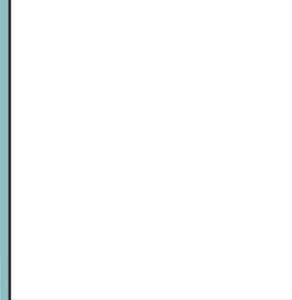


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