



Immanuel Student Ministries



"Building strong relationships in Christ and making Him known to all."



SUNDAY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE



8:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
3-year-olds through 8th graders

ADULT EDUCATION
High schoolers and up



9:30 AM

WORSHIP



10:30 AM

FELLOWSHIP
in the Social Hall

* *Building strong relationships in Christ and making Him known to all.* *



604 Lafayette Ave
Story City, Iowa 50248



Website:
immanuelstorycity.org



Church Phone:
515-733-4972
515-357-6982



Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9am to noon

Our Team

Allison Potratz - Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries

TBD - Sunday School Superintendent

Jana Larsen, Lily Rathmacher, Mary Danielson, Brandi Hill - Board of Education Members

Grant Severson, Gracey Haberl, Joshua Dahl - Youth Board Members

Sunday School Teachers for 2026-2027:

- **Patty** and **Lily Rathmacher** - 3- and 4-year-olds
- **Rachel Winecoff** and **Lois Oakland** - Pre-K/Kindergarten
- **Carly Palmer** - 1st Grade
- **Laurel Leeman** and **Tami Marienau** - 2nd Grade
- **Mya Oberender** - 3rd Grade
- **Lauren Crawford** - 4th Grade
- **Amber Christian** - 5th Grade
- **Pastor Allison** - Confirmation (6th - 8th Grade)

Sunday School Music Teachers:

- **Nicole Engelhardt** - Kingdom Kids
- **Kelly Dahl** - Young Disciples

EPIC Leaders: Allison Potratz, Andrew Potratz, Grant Severson, Jaynee Christian, Laura Carlson, Mary Danielson

Our Mission

At Immanuel, our focus is to help the next generation of disciples and leaders in the church to grow strong relationships in Christ so that as they grow in their faith, their confidence in living a life devoted to Christ **THRIVES**. Many studies show that this current generation of students are very open to Jesus and have a curiosity about faith. Many identify as Christians but lack daily faith habits. They need help from just knowing about Jesus, to following Him. Immanuel can be the place for your child to be introduced to Jesus and experience belonging and community. We are honored to walk with you along the journey of raising children to know Jesus Christ as their personal savior and Lord of their lives!

Register for

SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Classes for all ages.



EPIC

PIZZA MEAL HOST
SIGN UP



EPIC

MIDDLE SCHOOL
CALENDAR



EPIC

HIGH SCHOOL
CALENDAR



When is a student thriving in their faith?

A student is thriving in their faith when they take a **step forward** in owning their faith!

Taking a step: There is no finish line or certificate of completion when it comes to spiritual growth. Instead, spiritual growth is a journey (a life-long journey)! That's why a thriving faith doesn't have anything to do with a specific achievement. Instead, it's anytime we see a student take a **single step closer to Jesus**.

What does it look like for a student to "own their faith"?

Here are **four** things that both lead to, and are a result of, spiritual growth:

1. **Spend time with God** - We want to see students practicing daily faith habits on their own, such as reading their Bibles, having conversations with God through prayer, and connecting with God through worship.
2. **Spend time with others** - We want to see students develop healthy relationships with other Christians, as well as living like Christ with everyone they encounter.
3. **Use their gifts** - Students need to know that God made them unique and has a plan for their life. This means that God gave them specific gifts, talents, passions, and purpose. We want to see students discover who God made them to be and then use their unique gifts to love God and love others.
4. **Share their story** - Scripture reminds us that there is power in our testimony! We want to see students learn how to talk about God daily. When we talk about God and our place in His story, it helps us believe, understand, and take ownership of our faith. It also helps us to live out the commandment to "go and make disciples" (*Matthew 28:19*).



Stepping Stones

We offer many milestone celebrations for students. If we were to have your student from birth to young adults, this is what the timeline would look like:



Stepping Stones in more detail

Baptism *(usually infant)*

Nursery *(optional)*

- for children ages birth - 4-years-old *(available during worship services)*

Sunday School

- for children ages 3 years old - 5th grade on Sundays (8:30 - 9:20am)
 - Kingdom Kids (3-year-olds through 1st grade)
 - Young Disciples (2nd grade through 5th grade)
- meets during the school year (September - May)
 - music performances are scheduled during services throughout the year

Vacation Bible School "VBS" or Day Camp

- for incoming 3-year-olds through 5th graders
- 9am to noon on the Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday the first full week in June

Confirmation

- A 3-year program for 6th - 8th grade students to grow in their faith, ending with an Affirmation of Faith at the end of the 8th grade year.
 - meets Sunday mornings 8:30 - 9:15am during the school year
 - Requirements for Confirmation:
 - Complete 10 Sermon Notes per year
 - Serve in Worship 2 times/Semester
 - Complete 2 Experiential Reflections/Year
 - As an 8th grader, help lead the Good Friday Service
 - Participate in a youth group (such as EPIC)

Mission Trip & Service Opportunities

- Mission Trip (Summer) for incoming 7th - 12th graders (and parents)
- Service opportunities for church and community vary throughout the year

EPIC

- Weekly Wednesday Youth Groups
 - Middle School (5th through 8th Graders) meets 5:45 - 7:15pm
 - High School (9th - 12th Graders) meets 7:30 - 9pm

High School

- Graduation is acknowledged and celebrated in worship in May

2026 - 2027 Student Ministry Calendar Highlights

All events are subject to change. Please check our Immanuel Church calendar on our website to see our current event schedule.

We are initiating a new way for our Sunday School students to serve this year that you'll see reflected on the calendar. **Student Serve Sundays** invite children and youth of all ages to help lead worship. Each class will serve one Sunday a year. Students take part in meaningful roles such as greeting, bringing up the offering, reading Scripture, acolyting, sharing an optional skit, offering hospitality, or joining the worship band in music leadership. It's a joyful way for students to grow in faith, serve alongside their families, and help shape our worship life together.

August

23: Back to School Blessing

26: EPIC Kick-off Night

September

13: Rally Sunday

- 8:30am - Start of Sunday School year
- 9:30am - Lord's Prayer books to 3 & 4-year-old class, & Bibles to 2nd graders
- 1 - 4pm - Free carousel rides at the Story City Carousel

20: Teacher Installation (9:30am) and *My Bible Class* (11am) for 2nd graders/parents

27: Student Serve Sunday - 5th Graders

30: First Communion Class @ EPIC

October

4: First Communion Celebration for 5th graders

7: EPIC at Fields of Faith Event (offsite)

11: Kingdom Kids sing in worship

18: Young Disciples sing in worship

25: Student Serve Sunday - 4th Graders

28: EPIC Leader's Night (no students)

November

15: Kingdom Kids and Young Disciples sing in worship

25: No EPIC - Thanksgiving Break

29: Student Serve Sunday - 3rd Graders

December

13: Kingdom Kids and Young Disciples Christmas Program during worship

- final day of Sunday School until January

16: EPIC Caroling and Christmas Party

- final day of EPIC until January



January

6: EPIC resumes

10: Sunday School resumes

31: Family Sunday School; Young Disciples sing in worship; Student Serve Sunday - 2nd Graders

February

10: Ash Wednesday (meal at 5:30pm and worship at 6:30pm)

- EPIC plans TBD

14: Kingdom Kids sing in worship

17: Lent Meal (5:30pm) and worship (6:30pm)

24: Lent Meal (5:30pm) and worship (6:30pm)

28: Student Serve Sunday - 1st Graders

March

- 3:** Lent Meal (5:30pm) and worship (6:30pm)
- 10:** Lent Meal (5:30pm) and worship (6:30pm)
- 14 - 19:** Spring Break - No EPIC or Sunday School
- 17:** Lent Meal (5:30pm) and worship (6:30pm) (*No EPIC*)
- 21:** Palm Sunday - Kingdom Kids and Young Disciples sing in worship; Student Serve Sunday - Pre-K and Kindergarten class
- 24:** EPIC resumes to its normal time frame (5:45/7:30pm)
- 25:** Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm
- 26:** Good Friday Service at 7pm led by 8th Graders
- 28:** Easter Sunday - No Sunday School
- 31:** EPIC Leader's Night (no students)

April

- 25:** Confirmation Sunday; Student Serve Sunday - 3 & 4-Year-Old Class

May

- 5:** Final Night of EPIC
- 16: Final Day of Sunday School**
 - Classroom Parties
 - Kingdom Kids and Young Disciples sing in worship

June

- 7 - 9:** Day Camp
- 27 - July 2:** Summer Mission Trip to Duluth, Minnesota



Your influence matters

As a parent, you have an incredible influence on your child's life. In fact, the impact you make is far greater than anything we, as their church, could ever hope to accomplish. You are the most important voice in your child's life—not only today, but for years to come.

We Will Get What We Are

Researchers Christian Smith and Melissa Lundquist Denton concluded:

"The most important social influence in shaping young people's religious lives is the religious life modeled and taught to them by their parents."

Before focusing on your child's faith, take a moment to evaluate your own. What aspects of your relationship with God do you hope will become part of your child's life as they grow?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Do I have the vibrant, authentic faith that I hope my children will have as adults?

We Will Get What Our Kids Think We Are

Studies of teenagers reveal an important truth: while parents' beliefs matter, what often matters even more is what their children perceive those beliefs to be.

One author asks this challenging question: *"If you were on trial for being a Christian, what evidence could your kids offer to convict you?"*

Children are constantly watching and learning from us. The faith they see lived out often speaks louder than the faith we simply talk about.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

How do my children see me living out my faith at home, at work, and in my community?

Model Faith in Front of Your Kids

Every person's time with God may look different. The length, location, and routine may vary, but one thing remains constant: a growing faith requires intentional time with God and a commitment to making Him a priority.

When faith becomes a visible part of our daily lives, our children learn that following Jesus is more than a Sunday activity—it is a way of life.

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Do my children see me making my relationship with God a priority in my schedule?

Student Safety

The safety of your child is a priority for our ministry! Here is how we plan to care for and protect them.

We Screen Volunteers

Volunteers serving in our ministry are expected to maintain alignment with the mission and vision of Immanuel. All volunteers undergo a background check and must agree to follow our safety policy.

We Set Boundaries

- No staff or volunteers should initiate a one-on-one meeting with a student without your knowledge and consent. In addition, they will never meet alone behind a closed door with a student. Leaders should not exchange phone numbers or emails with students without parent consent.
- No staff or volunteer should transport a student in a vehicle without your knowledge and consent. Permission forms are required for off-site events and transportation.
- All staff and volunteers must maintain appropriate physical boundaries with students at all times.
- Sunday School Check In/Check Out: Students start in their singing rooms and then move to their classrooms. Please communicate with your child's Sunday school teacher how you would like to pick up your child at the end of class.

We Report Dangerous Situations

We will call to report if a student is:

- being harmed, neglected or abused
- harming or abusing someone else
- harming or at risk of harming themselves

We Are Always Available

If you ever have a concern about your child's care or safety, please reach out to us. We are just a phone call, text, or email away!

Pastor Andrew Potratz

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319-320-5176

Pastor Allison Potratz

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