

Immanuel/ Open Arms News

August 2023



What's Ahead?

Don't be impatient for the Lord to act! Keep traveling steadily along his pathway and in due season he will honor you with every blessing,..." (Psalm 37:34 TLB)

Are you anxious and worried about the future? God's Word speaks to you today, **"Put Your Hope in the Lord."**

As Immanuel Lutheran Church and Open Arms Christian Child Development Center look toward the future of Ministry together in the hope of the next "settled" Pastor, there is an opportunity for Satan to interject his "wedge of doubt."

Do NOT be fooled by the deceiver!

The LORD has been developing the right person to lead this ministry into the future. We hear Him tell us in *Jeremiah 29:11 (TLB)*, *"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

Yes, throughout scripture God continues to provide assurance of His care, and His promises are sure. Trust in that! *"Don't be impatient for the Lord to Act!"*

He has provided the path. Walk in His ways. Rely on God, while you keep steadily doing the mission work He has given this ministry, and look toward the Vision that He has given you... **As you ask yourselves, "How can I help others experience Christ?"**

That vision may open opportunities you never thought or imagined possible. *"Travel steadily"* and *"every blessing"* will be revealed to you *"in due season."*

May you continue in making disciples in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Rev. James Kirschenmann, Intentional Interim Pastor
Immanuel Lutheran Church / Open Arms Child Development Center



Kat's Corner – August 2023 Edition



When I was a kid, summer was a time when schedules slowed down, and my mom dreaded hearing those two words “I’m bored.” Today, it seems like the schedules never really slow down. Life is filled with summer camps, sports, and trips. Do you find yourself saying I’m too BUSY or I just need some rest? A wise old man once explained what BUSY really means - Being Under Satan’s Yoke. Are you caught up trying to survive living in a current day Babylon? Something to think about. I leave you with the words from Matt 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...” Don’t leave God out of your plans because you’re too busy!

Financial Report: Income continues to be under our projections. Expenses are being watched very closely. With rising costs on supplies, utilities, and wages, we are on an uphill road. We are slightly ahead of the overall budget projections through June, but we must be wise stewards. We must all trust that God is leading the way. Pray unceasingly! My prayer is that a tighter budget results in humility and trust with less pride. This current day Babylon surrounds us, lurking to devour us. If anyone would like to view the financial reports, please reach out to me and I’ll be happy to provide them.

Handbell Refurbishment: The Handbell refurbishment project, using V. Frazier funds, is in motion. The bells were sent out 7/6/23. This project is being driven by Tim Marquardt. Vivian’s family requested that a portion of her funds be used for music.

August World Missions: Mission India + Orphan Grain Train + LWML

August Immanuel Mission: Voice of Hope Prison Ministry at Statesville (IL)

Valley Lo Club used our west parking lot on 7/3/23 for overflow parking from their 4th of July festivities. They graciously made a \$500 donation in thanks for the space.

Refugee collection continued through July. Thank you to all who participated in this collection. LCC has been partnering with us by gladly delivering our items to the collection site in the city.

Around the Building:



Our new play area is progressing. The new asphalt areas are finished, and the new ADA ramp has been installed. We are now waiting for the new greenspace area which will include areas of river rock, mulch and mostly grass! As recommended by our landscaper, sod should really wait until late August or September to assure that it will adapt and grow in better for the kids to use in a couple of weeks rather than grass seed which will take much longer.

Water fountain/Bottle fill stations will all be getting new filters this month. These stations are used daily to fill everyone’s water bottles.

Plumbing issues: Hot water and water in general continue to be an obstacle for us. With all the additions to our facility, our plumbing pipes are a spider web of pipe paths. I am still working with the plumbers to determine what the options are for future water issues. Currently, every time we have a shut-off valve issue, the water to the entire building must be shut off. This creates issues with Open Arms as DCFS will not allow the building to be without water when the children are present. We are working to locate where we can add a new area shut off which would isolate areas rather than shutting the water off for the entire building.

From the Director's Desk:

August is our busy season. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year and are excited to welcome many new families to our center.

Kindergarten: At the end of the school year, due to low enrollment, we made the very hard decision to close Open Arms Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. We are taking this year to utilize the space to re-vamp our specials. We are also taking this time to realign our abilities with the needs of the community and introduce a strong Kindergarten in 2024.

Specials Update: We have a full return of our specials! This year we are including Music, art, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) starting in August of 2023. In January of 2024 we will be adding Spanish to our classes. We are very excited that Music will actually extend to our infant classrooms! We are happy to announce that our 3's co-lead teacher Ms. Katherine will be leading the specials and Ms. Adriana our current 2's teacher will be teaching Spanish.

School year Calendar Updates: Some quick dates to save on your calendar:

- OA Early Dismissal: August 16th at 12:30pm
- Grill Night: August 23rd at 5:30pm
- OA Closed for Teacher Institute: August 17th and 18th
- 1st day of School!: August 21st
- Parent Orientation: August 30th at 6:00pm

NLSA Accreditation: Staff and Administration have been working hard on the accreditation. The process has over 1,000 components including questions to answer, evidence to collect, comments to add, edits to be made, and grammar to be checked. We have until March of 2024 to complete the entire process. We are currently 27% of the way complete with more being completed each week.

Partnership with Christian Heritage Academy: We were very blessed this year to work with Christian Heritage Academy to encourage a continuation of Christian Education for Children in our area. Christian Heritage offers education of Pre-K to 8th grade. Christian Heritage will be promoting Open Arms to their incoming families for infant to Kindergarten care as well as promoting our Summer Camp! Open Arms will be working to prepare our older classes and promote enrollment for their elementary to high school program.

Backpack Blessings: Everyone is invited to have their school bag (or work bag) blessed for the upcoming year. During service on August 20th we will be praying over the backpacks donated before we send them off to the Debra Gelfand Children's foundation here in Glenview. Help us celebrate a blessed start to a Christ filled year.

Ms. Jessy

Sunday Study

Overview on August 6, 2023 for Six Sessions (TBD)... *“Becoming a Welcoming Church”*

Church members perceive their church to be friendly. But as he surveyed guests, he found that the guests typically saw church members as unfriendly. The perception chasm existed because the members were indeed friendly . . . to one another.

The guests felt like they crashed a private party.

Bestselling author Thom Rainer (I Am a Church Member, Autopsy of a Deceased Church) has a game plan for churches to become more hospitable. In a format that is suitable for church members to read individually or study together, Rainer guides readers toward a practical framework for making a difference for those who visit their church. Churches may use Becoming a Welcoming Church to assess and audit where they are on a spectrum between welcoming and wanting.



Dinner with Friends



On Saturday, August 26th, we will have our "dinners with friends". This is an opportunity to host Immanuel members and/or Open Arms parents for dinner. If interested in participating, either as a host or participant, please let the front office know your name(s). Groups will be made for the dinners, probably eight people at most. Your group could also be arranged to each bring a dish rather than one person making the entire meal and hosting. Each group that is made can figure out the details on their own. You may be paired up with people you don't know! This is an opportunity to meet new people in our community and enjoy good food.

How Can I Help...	
Open Needs:	Celebrated Responses:
Items for Refugees – clothing, shoes, luggage, backpacks, towels, bedding, linen.	July Refugee collections – 30 bags and 8 boxes. August Refugee Collections - 27 more bags
Backpack Blessings (Need by Aug 20)	
Volunteers for “Immanuel Care” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Transportation as needed. Help with “Odd Jobs” as needed. A central contact person 	
Grief Share Assistant Facilitator	
Assistants responding to “Explorers” Online (See Pastor)	

Just a reminder that Open Arms will be closed Early (12:30pm) on Wednesday, August 16th and closed full day on Thursday, August 17th and Friday, August 18th.

What will we be doing?

Wednesday afternoon we are working on a large part of our upcoming accreditation.

Thursday we are in orientation meetings and classroom toy deep cleaning

Friday is a full CPR/First Aid/ AED training.

We will certainly be busy and learning a lot! We look forward to everyone back on Monday the 21st for a new school year.

Grill Night Reminder!! (DATE CHANGE)

Grill night will be on Wednesday, August 23rd (**This date changed from the 16th!**). Come join us for a grilled dinner! This event will take place in our backyard where there is plenty of open space. There will be hotdogs and side dishes! This is an opportunity to get to know one another better. Come and meet Immanuel Church Members and Open Arms Families!



Food is being served at: 5:30pm with last call at 6:30pm. Clean up is at 7:00pm.

Backpack Blessings

We will be collecting backpacks of supplies (list below) to be distributed by the Debra Gelfand Children Foundation of Glenview. These backpacks are distributed to students in District 34.

Drop off items in Narthex or Front of Open Arms.

Give one of three ways:

- Simply donate a new backpack (Kindergarten - 8th grade)
- Donate a bag of school supplies. Please include the items on the supply list. Make sure you include each item AND nothing else. (This makes the donation given to each child the same.)
- Donate a backpack and a bag of school supplies. Please keep the items separate. When the children come, they pick their backpack and then they are given the supplies.

Supply List:

12 pencils, 10 blue/black stick pens, 1 box of 24 crayons, 1 ruler, 2 erasers, 1 pair of scissors, 2 glue sticks, 2 pads of post-it notes, 2 packs of 3x5 index cards, 2 highlighters, 3 wide rule spiral notebooks, 4 pocket folders, 1 set colored pencils (12 count), 1 set washable markers (8-12 count)

DEADLINE is Sunday, August 20th

Teacher Bios



Mrs. Rana Sweilem: Baby Rosebud Teacher

My name is Ms. Rana and I have been working at Open Arms for 16 years! I love to work with young children and especially infants. I have so much fun watching them grow and develop. My favorite part of the day is snack time and watching babies learn to feed themselves and develop their love for delicious and nutritious food. When the weather is nice I love to take the babies on long walks to enjoy nature. Walking and observing the world around me is one of my main hobbies. I also enjoy cooking and baking. This is most fun for me when I get to do it with my family.

I was born and raised in Madaba, Jordan but my husband and I have been living in the United States for over 35 years. I am a mother to four children - Issa, Sarah, Omar, and Fayrous. I am grateful everyday that our Open Arms families trust me with their precious babies, and so I make sure to pour all of my love and care into them each and every day.

Education: Early Childhood Education CDA certified



Ms. Debbie: Baby Begonias Teacher

Ms. Debbie (that's me) has been working at Open Arms since August of 2012. I started in the Toddler Tulips and then moved into the Begonia room where I am now the leader of the Begonia team. Prior to coming to Open Arms I was an elementary teacher in a Lutheran school. I am a product of Lutheran education and have always taught in Lutheran schools, graduating with my teaching credentials in 1985 from Concordia Chicago.

I grew up in Racine, Wisconsin, where my sister still lives. I also have two brothers, one lives in Maryland and the other in Georgia. Three of us are Lutheran trained educators. At times you might find me playing the organ at Immanuel, Glenview.

When I do have free time, I enjoy relaxing in front of the tv with my cats Cali, Oreo, and Monti. I also enjoy counted cross stitch projects and sewing. My latest project is sewing bibs for the OA classrooms.

I love working at Open Arms where I can share my faith with the children and their families.

Education: Elementary education - BA in 1985 from Concordia Chicago, Gateways credentials 1 and 2, working on Gateways Infant/Toddler credential.



Ms. Fayana Gayle: Toddler Tulips Teacher

Hello! I am Ms. Fayana and I have been at Open Arms since October 2017, and I have loved my time here! I have always wanted to work with young children and babies, and was so happy when I found Open Arms. I've enjoyed my last 6 years here as an assistant teacher, and can't wait for many more as a lead teacher. I've learned so much from various teachers here, and most importantly, I've learned how to better teach, take care of, and love all of these amazing children. When I'm not at Open Arms I really enjoy watching movies, K-Dramas, and listening to music! I'm excited for this new year and all the new adventures it will bring!

Education: CDA/working on associates in Arts (elementary education pre-major)

**Ms. Adriana Zagal: Tiger Lily Twos Teacher**

Hi there! My name is Ms. Adriana. I began my journey here when I was given an opportunity in 2017 to start working in the 2s room as a teacher aide. At the time, I helped lead teachers with lessons they had planned. As my experience and love for children grew, I was given the opportunity to become the 2s lead teacher, and now I am approaching my third year as a lead. I am excited to begin teaching Spanish in the upcoming 2024 school year for the 2s and up classes. I am so excited to have your little one in my classroom.

When I'm not at Open Arms I'm at home doing arts and crafts or spending time with my family, friends, and pets.

Education: Early Childhood Education CDA certified

**Ms. Helen Ermolov: Daisy Threes Morning Teacher**

I love to teach three-year-olds. I love to teach them everything: letter sounds, the five senses, patterns, how to hold scissors, and most of all - to love Jesus. When a child comes to me and is excited to tell you what he learned from me, it makes me feel so good. Three-year-olds absorb what they learn like sponges, and it is very rewarding.

I was born in Russia, and I have lived in the U.S. since 1999. First I had a career in the computer field, then I was a stay-at-home mom. When my son, the youngest of three children, started school, I became a tutor for School District 96. Then I started working as a teacher at a daycare center. I have been at Open Arms from the start of the 2022 – 2023 school year. It had been my dream to work at a faith-based school, and I am happy that my dream came true. I live in Glenview, within walking distance from the school!

In our spare time my husband and I, depending on the season, like to go biking, hiking, canoeing, fishing and skiing - both downhill and cross-country. I love to spend time with my grandchildren. I feel that I am more of an educator than a nanny in the family and at school.

Education: MS in engineering from Electrotechnical University in St. Petersburg, Russia; Early Childhood Education certificate from Oakton Community College.

**Ms. Katherine Feerick: Daisy Threes Afternoon/Specials Teacher**

I'm Miss Katherine! I have been working at Open Arms for several years now over the summers and winter breaks while I studied at Illinois State University! From the day I first walked into Open Arms I fell in love with the center and was so eager to join the wonderful team and community here! I have worked in every classroom and love seeing the way that each age group grows and develops in such a short time period. I am so happy I am here to stay and will have the opportunity to build deeper relationships with students and families! I am so excited to implement new curriculums here this year for Music, Art, and Social Emotional Learning and help students learn in new ways! I also love the Daisy 3's room and am looking forward to co-teaching with Ms. Helen as we walk alongside children during such a special and impressionable age. I have been volunteering for faith-based organizations and youth groups for several years, but am so happy I will get to share the love of Jesus everyday at work now too! On the weekends I love spending time with my family and friends! I enjoy watching the Minnesota Vikings, watercolor painting, and of course having a good shopping day!

Education: State of Illinois Licensed Facility Teaching Credential hours from Illinois State University



Ms. Megan Gerken: Sunflower 4s

Hello my name is Megan Gerken, but the kids call me Ms. Gerken. This will be my ninth year here as lead teacher in the Sunflower 4's room. I studied elementary education at Illinois State University and graduated in 2009. I found myself moving back home and in need of a job and that's when I walked through the front doors at Open Arms in 2011. I first started in the toddler room and learned all I needed to know about early childhood care and how to share Jesus' love through that care. Each year here has been a learning experience and each year I feel like I have become a stronger teacher and stronger in my faith. My teaching style is a little bit of everything. I really like to keep my learning, play based and very hands on. I also make time for more structured learning as well. Besides teaching full time I do enjoy going camping, kayaking, and traveling to see my friends in my free time. I am an avid Cubs fan and a lover of Lego! I am also blessed with 3 nephews, so most weekends I'm in Milwaukee or Lake Forest being Aunt Meg! I can't wait to see what God has instore for me in the coming year.

Education: Elementary education



Mrs. Jessie Dinkelman: Director

Hello! I am Ms. Jessie Dinkelman. I am the Director of the center. I've been blessed to serve here at Open Arms in many roles since 2015. My first day here I knew: this is where I always wanted to be. I love the staff, the children, the environment, the Church and the community we all share. The children are my first priority and I love spending time getting to know each of them and their family members. Here at Open Arms we are a big family, supporting each other in our parenting journeys because "it takes a village". My husband, Adam, and I welcomed our first child, Ambellina, back in August of 2021. She's growing up so fast and enjoys her days here at Open Arms and her Sundays at Immanuel. I look forward to the growth of the school, our community, and my own family. If you ever need anything please do not hesitate to ask, I always keep an open door!

Education: Bachelors in Special Education from Concordia, credentials in Project Management, Gateways Early Childhood Credential Level I, and Food Manager



Ms. Christin Nosko: Assistant Director

My name is Christin Nosko and I am the Assistant Director at Open Arms. Before coming to OA, I worked as a lead teacher for over 10 years at a Lutheran school in the city. I enjoy working at OA for the family atmosphere and wonderful staff. Everyday is a new adventure filled with new surprises and opportunities to learn something new!

My hobbies include listening to thriller podcasts and relaxing with my family. My favorite snuggle is my puppy, Felix. I am a HUGE Disney fan and can often be heard listening to Disney music in my office.

Education: Bachelors in Early Child Education from Northeastern Illinois University with a Masters in Leadership also from Northeastern Illinois University. Credentials in PERA Teacher Observation, Gateways Credential Level I, and a Type 75 Certification.



Weekly Events

Sundays

8:45am Study Hour (Fellowship Hall/ [Koinonia.ClickMeeting.com](https://www.clickmeeting.com))

10:00am Divine Service (Zoom/In-Person)

Tuesdays

7:00pm Women's Bible Class (In-Person Youth Room)

Wednesdays

10:00am Men's Group at Panera Bread (In-Person)

~2512 Waukegan Road Glenview, IL 60025~

7:00pm Volleyball (Gymnasium)

Thursdays

3:00pm Bible Study (Zoom with Kit Lenser)

Starts back up late August or early September

7:00pm Pickleball (Gymnasium)

Saturdays

9:00am Pickleball (Gymnasium)

Simply go to Zoom

Or join us by phone by calling +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) and enter the information below as prompted.

Meeting ID: 957 722 9696 Password: 188009



Immanuel/Open Arms Staff

Rev. James Kirschenmann - Intentional Interim Pastor

Mrs. Jessy Dinkelman - Director

Ms. Christin Nosko - Assistant Director

Ms. Kathy Gerken - Business Manager

Ms. Missy Brouillet - OA/ILC Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Hannah Dunn - Continuing education coordinator

Mr. Tim Marquardt - Music director (Organist)

Ms. Rana - Baby Rosebuds; Ms. Alicia, Ms. Elisa

Mrs. Debbie - Baby Begonias; Ms. Klara, Ms. Jiji,

Ms. Jenny, Ms. Khadija

Ms. Fayana - Toddler Tulips; Ms. Evi,

Ms. Lily, Ms. Paula, Ms. Rachel, Ms. Kristina

Ms. Adriana - Tiger Lily 2s; Ms. Megan E, Ms. Crystal,

Ms. Hannah

Ms. Helen/Ms. Katherine- Daisy 3s; Ms. Kim, Ms. Allison

Ms. Gerken - Sunflower 4s; Ms. Aleia, Ms. Linda, Mr. Jonny

Mr. Marty - Handyman



CHRISTIAN • CHILD • DEVELOPMENT • CENTER

CONNECTING • DEVELOPING • GROWING

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Website: www.openarmsglenview.org

Immanuel Lutheran Church

847-724-1034

www.immanuelglenview.org

Pastor Jim Kirschenmann
All are Welcome to Worship!

✠Sundays 10:00am

Upcoming Events

Grill Night: Wednesday, August 23rd, and Wednesday, September 13th

Half day on August 16th - 12:30 Dismissal (Teacher Institute Day)

CLOSED: August 17th and 18th for cleaning and staff in-service training.

Monday, August 21: First day of school

Wednesday, August 30th, 6:00pm: Parent Orientation Night

(Parents only please)

Monday, September 4th: School closed for Labor Day