

“Does Jesus Make a Difference?”

Current publications and research says no! In fact, when the Barna Research Group did a survey involving 152 separate items comparing the general population with those who called themselves Christians, they found virtually no difference between the two groups.

They found no difference in the **attitudes** of Christians and non-Christians, and they found no difference in the **actions** of Christians and non-Christians. For example:

- Those who call themselves Christians are no more likely to give assistance to a homeless person on the street than non-Christians.
- Those who call themselves Christians are no more likely than non-Christians to correct the mistake when a cashier gives them too much change.
- A Christian is just as likely to have an elective abortion as a non-Christian.
- Christians divorce at the same rate as those who consider themselves non-Christians.

In the middle of July, I attended the Grand Opening of a new restaurant across the street in the Westchester Towers, (I attended on behalf of the Westchester Chamber of Commerce.) The invitation to the Grand Opening of “**The Bistro**” said that I could come and see the facility and taste some of the food. Since the Chamber is considering having a meeting at the facility, I attended the event. But what struck me was the behavior of many of the people in attendance. At one point as I looked around the facility I estimated there to be about 120 people in the restaurant. Based on current surveys, roughly 65% to 80% of the people in attendance would have likely identified themselves as Christians!

The food being served was cut into pieces that were one to two bites and small paper plates about 5 inches were distributed for use. Clearly the intent of the management of the restaurant was that people would take a piece or two of each offering, enough to get a taste of the type and style of food that will be available at the restaurant.

What I observed was startling! People were taking 5 or 6 pieces of pizza on a plate, and then stacking another plate on top with 5 to 6 pieces of Mexican food, then another plate with pulled pork sandwich bites, and crackers with meat and cheese. Then one more plate with dips and chips, and finally a couple of plates with a whole variety of pastry bites. I naively commented to one lady doing this, that it was nice that she was getting samples for her whole table. She told me, “no way... this was all for her.” And as I looked around she was not in the minority – rather she was the norm! I was the exception having only one or two pieces on my plate!

What struck me was the **greed factor** – believe me when I tell you none of the people with multiple plates appeared to be undernourished or lacking for food! But it was free food – free for the taking! And taking was the practice of the day! And then it struck me that many of these people were Christians. Yet their practice was no different than those who were not. In fact there would be no way for me to tell who was or was not a Christian based on the piled high plates.

So I wondered how others view us – in our family – in our schools – in our work places – in our daily dealings – do we give a Christian witness with how live and how we speak? Or would a person not be able to see a difference in how we live? Do we walk the talk?

Pastor Ted

“Finishing Well”

The author of Hebrews exhorts us to *“throw off everything that hinders and...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us”* (Hebrews 12:1b). The race we run in life more resembles a marathon than a sprint. Our race is a lifelong effort, and we are called to run with perseverance. God wants us to finish well in this marathon of life. In order to finish strong, we need to nurture our faith continually as we spend time in His word and in prayer. Many people will start well but, unfortunately, finish poorly. Solomon started well, King Saul started well, and Lot started well; however, they allowed themselves to be entangled by things of the world, lost their focus, and finished poorly.

Regardless of our physical limitations or any other obstacles we encounter in our races, we need to stay strong in our faith and spirit. We have been called to follow our Lord, and He has not promised us a walk in the park. He has told us that we must be willing to sacrifice security, material things, vocations, and our own will. These things the Apostle Paul considered “rubbish” so that he could be found in Christ (Philippians 3:8). As children of the King, we have a relationship that has been forged by the atoning blood of Christ - and we’re *“heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory”* (Romans 8:17).

The Apostle Paul is a wonderful encouragement and example for us of a person who finished well. As a witness for Christ, he suffered many hardships, but he put his beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, and sicknesses into perspective. *“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all”* (2 Corinthians 4:17). By God’s grace, he overcame his challenges and obstacles to run his race with perseverance to finish well.

In order to finish our races in life well, we need to call upon the Lord in prayer, meditate daily on His word, attend church regularly, partake in the Lord’s Supper, and be faithful stewards. May God bless our efforts to run our races well, so we can finish well and spend eternity with Jesus.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND NOTES

SUMMER IS HERE AND VACATION SEASON IS UNDERWAY. THIS MEANS THAT WITH PEOPLE GONE FOR A WEEK OR TWO CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DOWN. WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO REMEMBER THAT OUR EXPENSES AT IM-MANUEL CONTINUE. WE ASK EVERYONE TO PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO RE-MEMBER YOUR OFFERINGS WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO BE GONE FOR A WEEK OR TWO.

HAVING NOW COMPLETED THE 2009/2010 FISCAL YEAR, OUR PROJEC-TIONS FOR A DEFICIT WERE ACCURATE. WHILE EVERYONE WORKED HARD TO HOLD EXPENSES DOWN, CONTRIBUTIONS WERE OFF SLIGHTLY ABOUT \$3000 AND SCHOOL TUITION WAS DOWN ABOUT \$4500. THE NEW FISCAL YEAR BUDGET APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IS AGAIN A DEFICIT BUDGET.

ON TOP OF THIS THE TOUGH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS APPEAR TO BE AFFECT-ING ENROLLMENT FOR THE DAY SCHOOL. WE WANT TO THANK EVERY ONE OF YOU WHO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL AND REGULAR IN THEIR OFFERINGS AND WE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR GENEROUS RESPONSE.

WE ASK THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION TO DO THE FOLLOWING.

- PRAY FOR PASTOR, PRINCIPAL HAHN, OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF.
- PRAY FOR MORE FAMILIES TO ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN OUR DAY SCHOOL
- PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL MOTIVATE EACH OF US TO RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST AND OFFER OUR GIFTS IN PROPORTION TO THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED.
- PRAY THAT WE WILL GROW OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND THAT EACH OF US WILL BE WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST!

MONTHLY EVENTS (unless otherwise noted)

- Self-Defense classes Mondays at 6:00 PM
- Confirmation classes Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
- Darts Tuesdays at 8:00 PM
- Adult Choir Rehearsals Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
- Men’s Club every second Saturday of the month 8:00 AM
- Prayer Shawl Group every first Thursday of the month 7:00 PM

Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl Group will NOT be meeting in August. Please watch for notices when we start meeting again beginning in September. During the summer, feel free to continue knitting/crocheting scarves, shawls, baby blankets, dish cloths, etc. We will find these items useful to donate to various organizations. See Patricia Contraveos if you have any questions.

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST AT 7:30 PM. PLEASE MEET IN DONN HEMPEL’S CLASSROOM. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures give us.

Romans 15:4

Getting the Most Out of Your Daily Bible Reading

As you read the Bible each day, allow the Scriptures to speak to you. This daily “dialogue “ between you and the biblical text will reveal new understandings about God, and about yourself.

- **Set aside time** to read the Bible on a daily basis.
- **Find a quiet place** to read and reflect on each day’s reading
- **Begin with prayer**, asking God for guidance and blessing.

**Believe the Good News
And Share God’s Love**

AUGUST

- 1 - **Philippians 1:1-11**
- 2 - **Philippians 1:12-30**
- 3 - **Philippians 2:1-11**
- 4 - **Philippians 2:12-30**
- 5 - **Philippians 3:1-21**
- 6 - **Philippians 4:1-23**
- 7 - **1 Thess. 1:1-10**
- 8 - **1 Thess. 2:1-16**
- 9 - **1 Thess. 2:17-3:13**
- 10 - **1 Thess. 4:1-12**
- 11 - **1 Thess. 4:13-5:11**
- 12 - **1 Thess. 5:12-28**
- 13 - **2 Thess. 1:1-12**
- 14 - **2 Thess. 2:1-17**
- 15 - **2 Thess. 3:1-18**
- 16 - **1 Timothy 1:1-11**
- 17 - **1 Timothy 1:12-20**
- 18 - **1 Timothy 2:1-15**
- 19 - **1 Timothy 3:1-16**
- 20 - **1 Timothy 4:1-16**
- 21 - **1 Timothy 5:1-25**
- 22 - **1 Timothy 6:1-21**
- 23 - **2 Timothy 1:1-18**
- 24 - **2 Timothy 2:1-13**
- 25 - **2 Timothy 2:14-26**
- 26 - **2 Timothy 3:1-9**
- 27 - **2 Timothy 3:10-4:8**
- 28 - **2 Timothy 4:9-22**
- 29 - **Titus 1:1-16**
- 30 - **Titus 2:1-15**
- 31 - **Titus 3:1-15**



CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY IS COMING!!



Pictures are scheduled to be taken on Monday, August 16th and Tuesday, August 17th from 2:30 PM - 8:30 PM. If you can help on either of those two days to sit and sign families in, please see Carol Northcutt, Mike Hadler, or Sue Redis to volunteer.

SENIOR LIFESTYLE EXPO

Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging presents the 15th annual Senior Lifestyle Expo being held on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 24th & 25th at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Expo features are: health & wellness area, live entertainment, senior idol competition, fun & educational seminars, product & service exhibitors, giveaways & drawings, share your journey writing challenge, and game show challenges. Free parking, handicap accessible, food concessions on-site. Cost: \$3.00 at the door, \$1.00 off clip & save coupons available on the hall table located by the mailboxes. Info and applications also available online at www.SeniorLifestyleExpo.org

On July 7th a Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday was signed into law. The tax holiday will begin August 6 and last through August 15, 2010. During this window, state taxes on clothing and school supplies will be reduced by 5% to 1.25% (instead of 6.25%). Other Local County and City taxes will still apply.

ELIGIBLE CLOTHING

For the purposes of this Tax Holiday, "Clothing" is defined as all human wearing apparel suitable for general use. Each item purchased must meet this definition and have a retail selling price of less than \$100.

ELIGIBLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The legislation defines "School supplies" as items used by a student in a course of study. Purchases of "school supplies" for any other use are not eligible for the reduced rate of tax.

Immanuel Lutheran School News

Teacher Installation-Rededication

On Sunday, August 22nd at our 9:30 AM worship service, we will have teacher installation/rededication. We invite you to attend this special worship service to assure our teachers of your prayers, encouragement, love and support.

A special coffee hour reception sponsored by Immanuel's Day School Commission will be held at 10:30 AM in the fellowship hall. Everyone welcome!

IMPORTANT DATES

- 3 - PTL meeting 6:30 pm
- 16-17 - Faculty Meetings
- 18 - School Registration, Open House, Ice Cream Social - 5:00-8:00 PM
- 19 - Open House 9:00AM-12:00 Noon
- 25 - 8:00 AM First Day of School
- 31 - 3:00-4:00 PM Market Day pick up

CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY
PICTURES TAKEN ON
MON., AUGUST 16TH
AND
TUES., AUGUST 17TH

“School Registration”

School registration will be held on Wednesday, August 18th from 5:00-8:00 PM. There will be an opportunity to “Meet the Teachers” during that same time period. At registration, parents will be able to meet up with old acquaintances and well as make some new ones. The PTL board will be present to tell you about the opportunities to serve during the next school year.

On Thursday, August 19th from 9:00 AM until 12 Noon, you may come in & “Meet the Teachers” as well.

August Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Margo Heald | 16 - Rashaad Smith |
| 1 - Allen Westphal | 22 - Annetta Zimmerman |
| 3 - Robert Corrigan | 22 - Marge Pokorny |
| 4 - Samuel Dinkha | 23 - Mike Northcutt |
| 6 - Paris Willis | 24 - Amira Dinkha |
| 8 - Dave Svec | 25 - Debbie Valentino |
| 10 - Bob Romadka | 26 - Ron Arndt |
| 12 - Thomas Sierawski | 30 Patricia Contraveos |
| 13 - Audrey Zang | 31 - Tracy Bell |



OPENINGS FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS - SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TAKING PLACE NOW!

If you have an interest, or know of someone who has an interest in an Immanuel Lutheran School education, please call the school office at 708-562-5580 & check on the availability of openings in our classrooms for the fall. Spaces are limited in each grade. Information on enrollment, programs, events, fees and more is available.

Please visit our web site at www.immanuel-hillside.org Remember that if you refer someone to Immanuel and they stay for at least one trimester, you will earn a \$100 credit toward your own tuition.

From the Principal's Desk

Does the economy affect education?

If you have been listening to the local and national news, the obvious answer is “Yes!” Many public schools are struggling with reduced budgets. This has resulted in teacher lay-offs, reduction in programs, and increased class sizes. This puts stress on the whole public system.

Immanuel, as well as other non-public schools, is feeling the affect of the economy. Our funding does not come from state or local government. Our funding comes from you, the congregation, and from tuition dollars. You, the congregation, have been faithful in the support of the school mission. You are to be commended. Our struggle is in reduced enrollment due to the economic struggles of the families we serve. Reduced enrollment results in reduced tuition income. This puts stress on Immanuel.

Many of our school families are struggling during this economic crisis. Job losses are a daily occurrence. The length of unemployment for many has extended beyond months to a year or more. Savings and unemployment payments are depleted. Some are looking at the loss of a home. The choice to give their child a Christian education has been taken away from them. Each time a family tells me that financial issues are forcing them to leave Immanuel, a piece of my heart breaks. Yet, I know that I cannot solve their economic woes.

How do we proceed? We proceed in faith that the same Heavenly Father that saved us through His Son Jesus Christ will see us through the challenging days to come. Our student body will be fewer and our staff will be trimmed. The staff will be working harder as the duties are apportioned to fewer people. Yet, the mission of Immanuel Lutheran School--to prepare and equip children spiritually, academically, emotionally, and physically for spirit-filled Christian outreach to the community and the world--will continue to be carried out.

Please keep our school families, the staff, and our school in your daily prayers as we begin our 158th year of Christian Education serving Hillside and the surrounding communities.

In Christ,
Lana J. Hahn

2317 - 2329 South Wolf Road
Hillside, IL 60162

Church phone - 708-562-5590

School phone - 708-562-5580

E-Mail: general@immanuel-hillside.org

www.immanuel-hillside.org

RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

Rev. Teddy Vratny, Pastor
Office: 708-562-5590 ext.101
Pastor@immanuel-hillside.org

Lana Hahn, M.A., Principal
Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 201
lhahn@immanuel-hillside.org

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music
Office: 708-562-5580 ext.205

Carol Northcutt, Admin. Asst.
Carol@immanuel-hillside.org

REMEMBER TO PRAY. . . . If you have a prayer request, please call the pastor in the church office (708-562-5590) . We are praying for you! Please notify the office when circumstances of your request change or when the Lord answers our prayers. We want to rejoice with you and thank the Lord.



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE



**August 1 -
9:30 AM Joshua DuBois**

**August 8 -
NO ACOLYTE**

**August 15 -
9:30 AM Mia Railing**

**August 22 -
NO ACOLYTE**

**August 29 -
9:30 AM Joshua DuBois**