

Immanuel Informer

“What is so happy about Happy New Year?”

I don't mean to sound like a curmudgeon, but what makes January 1 a cause for celebration? After all it is just one day beyond December 31st, and the weather is not instantly gotten better. We didn't all get to head to a tropical island for the rest of the winter. The vast majority of us did not win the lottery, nor did anybody show up on our door and give us a million dollars. In thinking about the good things that happen there is a big parade televised from usually sunny Pasadena, CA. And it is a day for college football fans extraordinary. Except this year not even those things are happening. Since January 1 falls on a Sunday it is a pro-football day and all of the college games get pushed off to Monday. Add to that the BCS system of games and you find the bowl games spread out for a week. So I repeat my question, what is so happy about Happy New Year?

The point of my question is to raise the issue that the things of this world can and do often disappoint us. One day can be just like another and even though the calendar changed, not much else changed. What makes a difference in our lives are not the things of this world, but the things of God. Think about it, we get mired down in our daily lives and find that we once again have sinned and done things that are not pleasing in God's sight. But each and every morning we have a new day, a new opportunity to live as forgiven children of God. We can begin our day washing our face, taking a shower or bath and washing away the dirt of the previous day. So too we can come to God confessing our sin and seeking his forgiveness, drawing on the power of our baptism and we have a new day, a clean day, a day that is open to us to live anew, afresh and in the power of the Triune God.

If we take that approach on January 1, then we can say truly it is a happy new day, the first day of a happy new year, one in which we will focus not on material or earthly things, but rather on the things of God, His will and His way. Remember how in Matthew's Gospel, Peter makes that wonderful confession that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. (Mt 16:16) But right after that when Jesus tells the disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, be arrested, tried and killed, but on the third day He will rise from the dead. Peter got mired and focused on the things of men and told Jesus that the disciples would never let that happen. And Jesus rebukes Peter and calls him Satan because as the New Living Translation put it, "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, and not from God's." (Mt 16:23)

You don't have to wait until January 1 to begin to have new happy days. Nor is the ability to have a happy new day, a happy new year restricted to one specific day of the calendar. Our baptismal grace makes a new day, a happy new day available to us each and every day of our lives. Put your mind on the things of God, put the things of man in it's their proper place, as secondary to the things of God. Seek renewal, repentance, and forgiveness on a daily basis. Live in the glory, grace, mercy and love of God as given to us in Jesus Christ, and each day will be a happy new day, making up a happy new year.

Pastor Jed

“*Living to Serve*”

Many of us take time around the beginning of a new year to reflect on the past year and its accomplishments and disappointments and to speculate on what our goals might be for the coming year. Most of us can come up with very worthy goals - many of which you can list in your mind right now - but how many of us have an earnest desire to live this new year with the goal of serving?

Serving is something we fit into our schedules when we have the time. Serving is an obligation we fulfill as part of a family, a community, or a job. Serving is usually not what we live to do; it's not what we consider our purpose in life.

As God's people, we are urged to “*fix our eyes on Jesus*” (Hebrews 12:2). The writer to the Philippians asserted, “*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 2:5). What is that attitude? When we “*fix our eyes on Jesus,*” what will we see?

We see the Suffering Servant about whom Isaiah wrote. The One Who “*took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows*”; the One Who was “*pierced for our transgressions...crushed for our iniquities...and by [Whose] wounds we are healed*” (Isaiah 53:4,5).

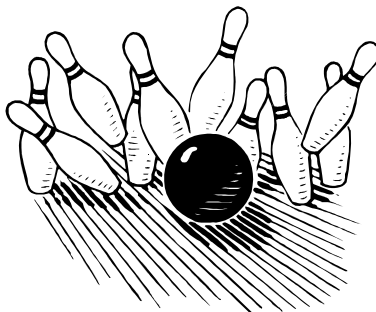
We see the Son of Man Who, in His own words, “*did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many*” (Matthew 20:28). This is the Son of Man Who lived a childhood in obedience to His Father and to the earthly parents who were chosen for Him. This is the Son of Man Who preached and taught, Who healed the sick, confronted the wicked, and comforted the despairing. This is the Son of Man Who showed us what serving is all about and Who has directed us to “*deny [ourselves] and take up [our crosses] and follow [Him]*” (Matthew 16:24).

What would happen if each Christian steward made serving a priority, rather than an obligation? How might the Kingdom of God grow and be strengthened if we put into practice the Apostle Paul's command to have the “attitude of Christ?” Let these thoughts serve as a challenge to us to serve others even as our Lord has served us.



Poinsettia plants - Thank you to everyone who helped decorate Immanuel Church with the poinsettia plants for the Christmas services. The Altar Guild appreciates your support and participation each year so that we can provide these beautiful plants to add to our worship services celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION - regarding PTL Family Bowling Night on Saturday, January 21st. School families as well as church families are welcome!



LUTHERBROOK BOWL-A-RAMA

The 25th Annual bowl-a-rama will be held in February (date to be announced) at Stardust Bowl in Addison. Please see Ed Mulvihill if you plan on joining us so that he can reserve enough lanes. This bowling event is a fun way to help the youth at Lutherbrook. \$30.00 in pledges from friends & family "earn" free bowling & a goody bag. Other prizes based on the amount of pledges earn other incentives. Great raffle prizes are available as well. As we have done the past 7 years, we will come back to the Old School House for something to eat & drink.

Immanuel Lutheran School News

NO SCHOOL -

JANUARY 2 & 3 - Christmas Break continues

(classes resume January 4th)

NO SCHOOL - MONDAY, JANUARY 16 - Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday



THIS MONTH ONLY!!!!

TWO MARKET DAY

SALES

FRIDAY

JANUARY 6

&

TUESDAY

JANUARY 31 (Feb. sale)

3:00-4:00 PM

Pick up

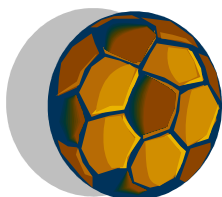
PLEASE NOTE: A "ONE TIME" CHANGE IN DAY!!

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 2-3 - NO SCHOOL
- 6 - 3:00 PM Market Day Sale
- 10 - 6:30 PM PTL Meeting
- 12 - 9:30 AM Band rehearsal (here)
11:00 AM Concert
7:30 PM Concert
- 13 - Mid-trimester reports
- 16 - NO SCHOOL
- 21 - PTL Family Bowling
- 25 - 3:00 PM Cooking Club
- 27 - 8th grade placement & visitation day at Walther H.S.
- 31 - 3:00 PM Market Day Sale

"Indoor Soccer Program"

Immanuel's Indoor Soccer Program begins on Saturday, January 21st and runs through March 10th. (if you registered) Refreshments will be sold.



January Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Roger Brabant | 22 - Erich Arndt |
| 3 - Evelyn Banaszewski | 23 - Hannah Bramos |
| 10 - Dennis Ondrovic | 25 - Jennifer Zaruba |
| 10 - Brett Willis | 26 - Serina Manilla |
| 11 - Sebastian Manilla | 28 - Randy Weeks |
| 12 - Toni Mooney | 28 - Lauren Gaston |
| 13 - Steve Hardy | 30 - Robert Westphal |
| 19 - Lois Boese | |
| 20 - Dorothy Westphal | |



We wish to thank everyone who donated canned goods to our Food Drive for the past 2 months. These items were delivered before Christmas to local food pantries.



MONTHLY EVENTS (unless otherwise noted)

Sunday School classes on Sundays at 8:30 AM
 Adult Bible Study on Sundays at 8:30 AM
 Self-Defense classes Mondays at 7:00 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 meet on **Thursday, January 5th** at the Old School House at 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome to join us! Thank you to everyone who contributed to our scarves/hats collection for the homeless. Our next project is baby blankets for CareNet. We will be holding a “mock” baby shower on Palm Sunday, April 1st.



FOR THE RECORD:

Deaths -
Bob Pokorny - November 13

Baptisms -
Shawn Viger (Valentino’s grandson)



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**

JANUARY

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Colossians 1:1-14 | |
| 2 Colossians 1:15-23 | 20 Matthew 11:20-30 |
| 3 Colossians 1:24-2:5 | 21 Matthew 12:1-14 |
| 4 Colossians 2:6-23 | |
| 5 Colossians 3:1-17 | 22 Matthew 12:15-32 |
| Epiphany | 23 Matthew 12:33-50 |
| 6 Matthew 2:1-15 | 24 Romans 10:5-17 |
| 7 Matthew 2:16-23 | 25 Acts 9:1-25 |
| | 26 Acts 9:26-43 |
| 8 Matthew 4:12-25 | 27 Acts 10:1-33 |
| 9 Matthew 8:1-17 | 28 Acts 10:34-48 |
| 10 Matthew 8:18-34 | |
| 11 Matthew 9:1-13 | 29 Acts 6:1-15 |
| 12 Matthew 9:14-26 | 30 Acts 7:1-29 |
| 13 Matthew 9:27-38 | 31 Acts 7:30-8:3 |
| 14 Matthew 10:1-25 | |
| 15 Matthew 10:26-42 | |
| 16 John 17:1-26 | |
| 17 Matthew 16:1-12 | |
| 18 Matthew 16:13-28 | |
| 19 Matthew 11:1-19 | |



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2012</h1>						
1 New Years Day 9:30 AM Holy Communion No Coffee Time	2 NO SCHOOL 7:00 PM Self Defense	3 NO SCHOOL	4 Classes resume 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal	5 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group	6 3:00 PM Market Day 7:00 PM Adult Volleyball	7
8 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee time	9 7:00 PM Self Defense	10 10:30 AM Worship @ Briar Place 6:30 PM PTL Meeting 8:00 PM Darts (home)	11 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal	12 (Here) 9:30 AM Band rehearsal/11:00 AM Concert 7:30 PM Concert	13 Mid-trimester DSC Christmas party (OSH)	14 8:00 AM Men's Club
15 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Coffee	16 NO SCHOOL Dr. King's B/Day 7:00 PM Self Defense	17 8:00 PM Darts (away)	18 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal	19	20 7:00 PM Adult Volleyball	21 Indoor Soccer PTL Family Bowling
22 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Coffee	23 7:00 PM Self Defense	24 8:00 PM Darts (away)	25 3:00 PM Cook Club 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal	26 10:30 AM Worship @ Cordia	27 8 th gr. placement & visitation @ Walther HS	28 Indoor Soccer
29 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Coffee	30 7:00 PM Self Defense	31 3:00 PM Market Day 8:00 PM Darts (home)				

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School phone - 708-562-5580

E-Mail: general@immanuel-hillside.org

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RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

Rev. Teddy Vratny, Pastor

Office: 708-562-5590 ext.101

Pastor@immanuel-hillside.org

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music

Office: 708-562-5580 ext.205

Carol Northcutt, Admin. Asst.

Carol@immanuel-hillside.org

Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 200

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



January 1 -
9:30 AM - Christopher Swasko

January 8 -
9:30 AM - Sebastian Manilla

January 15 -
9:30 AM - Naomi Perez

January 22 -
9:30 AM - Zachary Redis

January 29 -
9:30 AM - Jacob Blair