

Immanuel Informer

*“Let me call you Sweetheart, I’m in love with You.
Let me hear you whisper that You Love me too”*

Many of you probably recognize those words that come from the song by the name of “Let Me Call You Sweetheart.” And those of you who do remember, may be thinking about famous couples and love songs, such as those sung by Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald in the 1930’s and 40’s. While they never sang this song in one of their movies, Gene Kelly and Kathryn Grayson did sing this song in the movie “Thousand Cheers.”

All of this brings to mind the mid-February celebration of Valentine’s Day. And what could be more romantic and lovely than roses, a heart shaped box of candy, a beautiful card from someone you love? Or maybe for you it is about a fancy dinner out with that special someone, a lovely glass of wine reflecting the candlelight on your table as you linger and recall many precious times and moments together. Isn’t that after all what love is about?

Yet, at the same time I thought about this song, another song also popped into my head, a song from the Jesus People Movement of the 1960’s. Many of you may remember this song, written by Reverend Peter Sholtes, a Southside Chicago Pastor, it was titled. “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love.” The song written in 1968 is also known by the opening line which reads. “We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord...” This song reminds us of the great commandment that Jesus gave to his disciples on the night of the Last Supper. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34–35

So as Christian believers, what type of love is February all about? The answer may not be as easy as you might think.

For after all, God is the creator God, who created us male and female, making us different, unique and yet attracted to each other. God is the God who created marriage. Early in Genesis, we are told that for his wife, a man will leave his father and mother. So certainly we believe that God is a God of love, love for a husband and love for a wife. And he certainly wants us to express and celebrate that gift of love.

Yet there is also the love that Jesus talks about. It is not romantic love. It is that love that loves without expectation of anything in return. It is love that is given because we share a common focus and belief in a Savior who loves us enough to give up His life to pay the price for our sins. In response to the great love that he shows us we respond and love him. We show him that love by coming together as an assembly of believers in worship and fellowship. We respond to his love by our gifts of time, talents and financial support of ministries. Yet there is more that he asks us as our response. And that is to show our love for those who do not yet know Jesus as Lord and Savior by telling others about Jesus and how he has saved us.

So this month why not share the love – tell someone the Good News about a Savior who loves them so much, that he died, that they may have eternal life. That is real love!

Pastor Ted

“Stewardship as a Partnership”

As Christian stewards, we are responsible to use all that God entrusts to us for His purposes. We are to be active administrators and managers of what we have received as a trust. This understanding of stewardship is revealed in W.H. Greever’s definition of stewardship. **“Christian stewardship is the practice of Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions.”**

In essence, we are in a partnership with the Lord as the stewards of His kingdom. In the Old Testament, this partnership could be referred to as the partnership between master and servant. However in the New Testament, this partnership gives way to the relationship between friends working together for the realization of a common purpose. Jesus told His disciples, *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you.”* (John 15:15). The Apostle Paul adds to the status and dignity of our lives as stewards by calling us God’s *“fellow workers”* (1 Corinthians 3:9). This partnership is furthermore the partnership of father and son. *“So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir”* (Galatians 4:7). **Christian stewardship is a family affair. God has elevated us so we don’t merely work for Him as His agents and administrators of His property, but we work for him as His children sharing His purposes and His resources.**

Through God’s Word, we understand His purpose. *“And He made known to us His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment - to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”* (Ephesians 1:9-10). What a joy and privilege God has given us to be in partnership with Him to help all people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. As Jesus’ junior partners, we understand that all we are and have are to be used in our stewardship partnership with Him.



Financial News and Notes

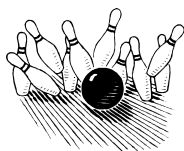
Good News! Looking at the figures for 2010 we find that congregational giving was up slightly over 2009. Praise the Lord, and thank all of you very much! We ask that those of you who committed to increases last year will stay the course this coming year of 2011.

In the year end figures there was some bad news. The Thrivent matching funds went away and that hurt the bottom line. Likewise as all of you know interest income was almost non-existent. So for the year we were off slightly in total revenue.

But another bright spot was the Estate of Lenore Schlensker which gave a sizeable gift to the church. We would encourage all of you to consider including Immanuel in your estate plan. If you have questions about how to do that please talk with Pastor Ted.

As we look at the month to month figures, December was a good month, particularly with the extra services and some more moderate weather without the awful snowstorms of the past couple of years. Snow and ice are expensive for us. If we have to spread salt on the parking lots, that costs us \$185. When we have two inches of snow or more we pay \$210 to plow the lots and \$40 to shovel the walks. So a simple three inch snowfall can cost upwards of \$425. Plus we still purchase salt for walkways and may have to shovel to make sure the way into church and the school is safe for our students and our members. This is why we always encourage you to make a special offering during the winter to defray these expenses.

As always we thank you for your regular and generous gifts and encourage you to remember your offerings when you are gone or out of town.



LUTHERBROOK BOWL-A-RAMA

The 24th Annual bowl-a-rama will be held on February 13th at Stardust Bowl in Addison. We are scheduled to bowl from 12:30-2:30 pm. As we have done the past 6 years, we will come back to the Old School House for something to eat & drink. 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.

SUPER BOWL PARTY & CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION at First Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1124 S. Ashland Ave. in Chicago on Sunday, February 6th starting at 4:30 PM. Sponsored by Lutheran Church Extension Fund, St. John’s in Forest Park, First Immanuel in Chicago & the International Student Ministry. Please RSVP to Sue Green at 708-223-3117 or sue.green@ni.lcms.org If you don’t have time to RSVP - come anyway! Everyone invited!



Immanuel Lutheran School News

**NO SCHOOL -
Friday, February 18
Records Day**

**Monday, February 21
President's Day**

**Friday, February 25
Parent/Teacher Confer-
ences**



MARKET DAY

Order forms are always avail-
able in the narthex & the front
hall of the school.

Pick up dates:

February 1

March 1

April 5

May 3

May 31 (June sale)

Pick up times are 3:00-4:00 pm

**PARENT TEACHER
CONFERENCES
WILL BE HELD ON:**

**THURSDAY, FEBRU-
ARY 24TH FROM 3:00-
7:00 PM**

AND

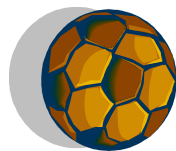
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY
25TH FROM 8:00 AM -
12:00 NOON**

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 - 3:00 PM Market Day Sale
- 2 - Walther Choir Festival
- 8 - PreK-K Registration
- 8 - 3:00 PM Math Club
- 8 - 6:30 PM PTL Meeting
- 11 - PTL Variety Show
- 14 - Manna orders due
- 22 - Report cards go home
- 23 - 3:00 PM Cooking Club
- 24 - PK-8 Field trip College of DuPage
- 27 - 9:30 AM Students sing at Immanuel
- 28 - Indoor skating begins

"Indoor Soccer"

Indoor soccer begins on Saturday, February 5th and runs through March 12th. This is only for those students that registered in December.



February Birthdays

- 1 - Donn Hempel
- 1 - Jeffrey Bettin
- 2 - Clarence Urban
- 4 - Joanna Czubernat
- 10 - Barbara Arndt
- 11 - Lana Hahn
- 21 - Emily Bramos
- 24 - Carolyn Barry
- 26 - Robert Rundgren



From the Principal's Desk

Registration information for the 2011-2012 school year is listed below. I encourage you to tell your friends and neighbors about Immanuel. Word of mouth is our best advertisement! Spread the good word about Immanuel Lutheran Church and School.

Existing school families – Re-enrollment (and enrollment of siblings) begins January 31st. Re-enrollment forms will be sent home with students.

Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten – Enrollment begins on February 8th with an open house on that day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. No appointment is necessary! Enrollment will continue until the classes are full.



New First through Eighth Grade families – Enrollment begins on March 13th with an open house from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Enrollment will continue until the classes are full. Watch the bulletin inserts and the March Informer for details of a whole week of special events in honor of Lutheran Schools' Week. We hope you will participate in some or all of the activities.

Invitations to the Open Houses are available in the school office. If you would like us to send one to someone you know, please give Miss Carol their name and address, and she will mail it off to them.

In Christ,
Lana J. Hahn

Multi-Church Youth Event!

Friday February 18 at 7:00 PM until 8:00 AM on Saturday February 19, 2011

At Zion Lutheran Church in Lyons.

CYM Team Rejoice from Concordia University in Chicago will lead the event.

Cost \$10.00

Open to Jr. High and High School Youth - Plan now to attend, mailings will be sent out for reservations.

Chaperone's needed: Talk with Pastor Ted

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 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 be meeting on **Thursday, February 3** at 7:00 PM at the Old School House (4733 Cermak Rd. - behind the Verizon store). The next project will be discussed. See Patricia Contraveos if you have any questions.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - 6:30 P.M.

VOTERS’ MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - 10:45 A.M.



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**

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 - John 8.12-20 | |
| 2 - 1 John 1.1-10 | 16 - Colossians 1.1-14 |
| 3 - 1 John 2.1-17 | 17 - Colossians 1.15-23 |
| 4 - 1 John 2.18-29 | 18 - Colossians 1.24-2.5 |
| 5 - 1 John 3.1-10 | 19 - Colossians 2.6-23 |
| 6 - Ephesians 1.1-14 | 20 - Colossians 3.1-17 |
| 7 - Ephesians 1.15-22 | 21 - Colossians 3.18-4.1 |
| 8 - Ephesians 2.1-10 | 22 - Colossians 4.2-18 |
| 9 - Ephesians 2.11-22 | 23 - Titus 1.1-16 |
| 10 - Ephesians 3.1-13 | 24 - Titus 2.1-15 |
| 11 - Ephesians 3.14-21 | 25 - Titus 3.1-15 |
| 12 - Ephesians 4.1-16 | 26 - 1 Peter 1.1-12 |
| 13 - Ephesians 4.17-5.2 | 27 - 1 Peter 1.13-25 |
| 14 - Ephesians 5.3-20 | 28 - 1 Peter 2.1-10 |
| 15 - Ephesians 5.21-6.4 | |



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



**February 6 -
9:30 AM Mia Railing**

**February 13 -
9:30 AM Christopher Swasko**

**February 20 -
9:30 AM Selena Perez**

**February 27 -
9:30 AM Zachary Redis**