

Immanuel Informer

“Keeping the Cross in Christianity”

One of my favorite web sites is the Lutheran Hour's Men's Network. Guys, check it out at (www.lhmmen.com). I enjoy many things but one that I especially like is under the category of shorts and is called "The Baloney Shop." These are short video segments recorded by former Lutheran Hour Speaker, Rev. Ken Klaus. In these he takes on public statements and beliefs that are pure baloney. His March 7, 2011 video took on those Christian churches who in an effort to be more acceptable and to be all inclusive are removing the cross from their facilities. He also takes on a non-Christian religion who finds the cross offensive.

For us as Lutheran Christians who believe the Bible to be true, we cannot remove the cross from our churches or remove it as a central focus of our faith. To do so is to deny the sacrificial death of Jesus as the source of the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus was born to die and it was to be an awful death, on a Roman cross. It is the disgrace and horror of the cross that shows the enormity of our sin and the greatness of God's sacrifice to save us.

For the coming Lenten season, I have selected as the theme for our worship, "See His Cross, Surprising Words From Our Savior's Passion." This theme will give us insights into God's plan of salvation for us as Jesus goes on his journey to the cross and ultimately to his resurrection. This will enrich our understanding of the forgiveness won for us by Jesus on the cross.

We will follow Jesus on this journey beginning on Wednesday February 22, 2012 at 7 P.M. as we celebrate Ash Wednesday in the Sanctuary. We will continue to follow Jesus each Wednesday through March 28th at 7P.M. at the Old School House. And we will sharpen our look at the cross as we celebrate Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. On Palm Sunday we will use a Choir Cantata, "Who Is This Christ?" to help prepare us for Holy week and the last few steps to the cross. Commit to take the journey with Jesus each week!

There are two other activities that we are going to undertake in Lent that hopefully will help us to focus our faith on the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us. One is the collecting of items needed for CareNet Mothers. Those ladies who have made the decision to keep their baby and raise a child. We will, as we did two years ago, provide you each week with an item or two to add to your shopping cart that will help a new Mom care for her baby. You can gather these things each week and then on Palm Sunday April 1, 2012 after service we will hold a Baby Shower and give our gifts to a representative of CareNet who will speak with us about the wonderful work they do.

Second instead of giving something up for Lent, we are going to ask you to take on something extra, a daily prayer for another member of our Church family. Note elsewhere in this newsletter the list of names and dates for the month, starting with Ash Wednesday. On each day you are asked to pray for one of our church families. The elders will be providing a list of possible prayers to use in this exercise. This project will continue into June to allow us to pray for every family. It will be good to exercise our faith during Lent, keeping our focus on the Cross of Christ!

Pastor Jed

“Sharing God’s Love”

At the heart of stewardship is the love God has shown to us through His Son, Jesus. Because He loves us, He has given us *“redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us. . . .”* (Ephesians 1:7-8). God is not stingy with His gifts: He “lavishes” them on us. Forgiveness of sins, Life, and salvation would be enough, wouldn’t they? But God chooses to give us more gifts - the gifts of His creation to care for, food and clothing, family and friends, and much more. He *“richly provides us with everything to enjoy”* (1 Timothy 6:17). Responsibility comes with this enjoyment, for we *“are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share”* (1 Timothy 6:18).

We are enabled to shoulder this responsibility because God Himself has called us to be His stewards. Because God has chosen to work through us, we faithfully respond to His love and grace. Because of God’s grace in our lives we are transformed into Christ’s likeness. We read in Galatians 2:20, *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

As followers of Christ we are capable of doing marvelous things because of God’s power at work in our lives. God uses us as conduits to share His love and rich supply with others. God not only calls us to His work of stewardship, He sets out the good deeds He wants us to accomplish: *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand, that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10).

God’s love shines through us as we individually share our blessings with others. We can reflect God’s love as we follow His guidance and willingly serve Him with our time, abilities, and money. As the Apostle Paul said, *“Therefore, my beloved brothers be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

May our love never grow cold and may we never tire of doing God’s work.

WALCAMP OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

Updates and coming events:

- ✚ Summer camp and family camp early bird registration are officially open. Sign up now to get our discounted rates.
- ✚ February 4th-5th Walcamp is hosting a Junior High Retreat. Kids will enjoy camp style worship songs, bible studies, making new friends, and a variety of games.
- ✚ Go to www.walcamp.org to learn more, or call us at (815) 784-5141



Financial News and Notes

We are six months into the fiscal year and the news is mixed, with both some good and some bad. Consider these summary statements. Year to date giving is off slightly from the budget, down about six thousand. School tuition is below budget which is due to the lower enrollment. The good news is that our families are current with their payments. Revenue is up in the miscellaneous revenue account. We received a grant from the Schwan fund and we finally received the money from Lynne Olsen's estate, along with a reimbursement from Commonwealth Edison for the extra money we had to deposit last year with them. In total this accounted for some \$15,000 in additional revenue.

All together at the end of six months we expended \$5,000 more than we took in and covered this by taking money out of a reserved fund, which is getting depleted. At the end of December we showed \$11,000 in bills that needed to be paid and had about \$11,000 in our checking account.

We continue to depend on the regular and generous contributions of our members, the prompt payment of tuition by our school families and on the goodness of God to provide when we are short. We are so thankful for those of you who give regularly and generously, you are a blessing. We encourage everyone to prayerfully consider their response to the Good News of Jesus Christ in supporting the ministry here at Immanuel.

CHICAGO WOLVES HOCKEY/FAITH & FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

On Saturday, February 4th, the Immanuel Men's Club is running an outing to a Wolves Hockey game & it features a Faith & Fellowship Night. With each ticket you get:

\$5 ticket savings
Free Wolves hat
Fun Fest - 5-6:30 pm (games & meet Skates the Wolves mascot)
Game time 7:00 pm vs. Peoria
Faith Assembly immediately following the game

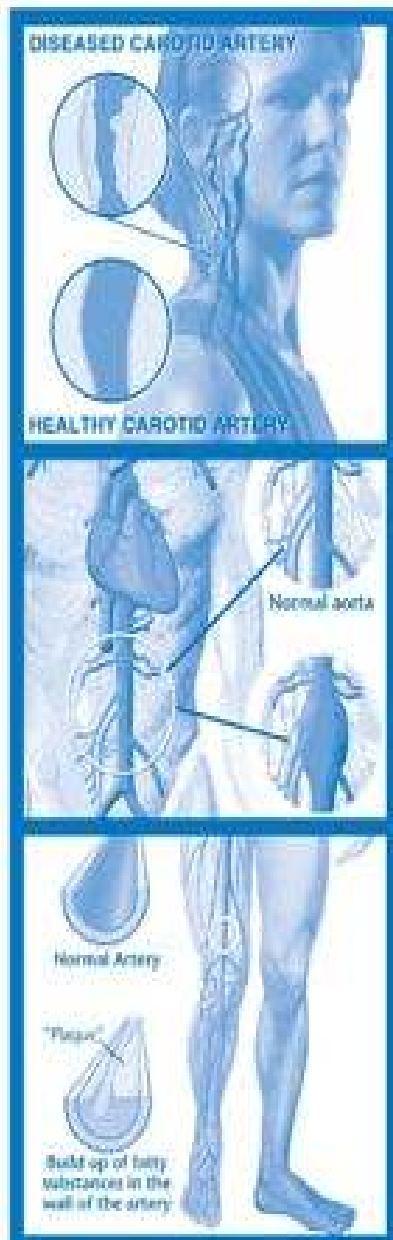
Please see/email Ed Mulvihill edm@accordinc.com or Randy Weeks the2weeksrn@aol.com as soon as possible to have them order you a ticket. We will have a section where our group will sit together. Names, addresses, phone numbers & emails will be needed for all attending. If you need a ride, we can meet at 4:45 pm in the church lot and leave by 5:00 pm. We had about 30 people last year. Hope you can come this year!



LUTHERBROOK BOWL-A-RAMA

The 25th Annual bowl-a-rama will be held on Sunday, February 12th at 12:30 PM 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. You can register online and have people pledge. (www.lcfs.org) Higher sponsorships yield T-shirts, coffee cups, etc. As we have done the past 7 years, we will come back to the Old School House for something to eat & drink. Please bring your own refreshments and dessert.

We Can Help You Avoid a Stroke



Trusted by Hospitals Nationwide

Life Line Screening has screened over 6 million participants and has partnered with hospitals across the country. Why? Because the ultrasound screenings that we offer can help save your life.

1 *Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening – \$60.00*

Ultrasound evaluation of the carotid arteries that screens for buildup of fatty plaque – the leading cause of strokes.

2 *Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation) – \$60.00*

A quick and easy test using EKG electrodes placed on the arms and legs to identify the presence or absence of an irregular heartbeat at the time of the screening.

3 *Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening – \$60.00*

Ultrasound is used to screen for the presence of an aneurysm in the abdominal aorta that could lead to a ruptured aortic artery.

4 *Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening – \$60.00*

Evaluates for peripheral arterial disease (plaque buildup) in the lower extremities. It is 4-5 times more likely you will die from heart disease if you have peripheral arterial disease.

5 *Osteoporosis Risk Assessment – \$35.00*

An ultrasound measurement of the heel bone to determine abnormal bone mass density. Osteoporosis is painless and silent in its early stages.

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

When: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-690-6313

****Vascular packages range from \$129 - \$159****

Immanuel Lutheran School News

NO SCHOOL -

FEBRUARY 17TH (Records Day)

FEBRUARY 20 - PRESIDENT'S DAY

FEBRUARY 24 - Parent/Teacher Conferences



**MARKET DAY
TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 28
3:00-3:15 PM
Pick up
THIS IS OUR
MARCH SALE**

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 - Walther grade school Band Festival
- 2 - All school field trip College of DuPage play
- 7 - 6:30 PM PTL meeting
- 8 - 3:00 PM Cooking Club
- 11 - PTL Fun Fair
- 13 - Manna orders due
- 21 - Report cards go home
- 22 - Ash Wednesday
- 26 - 9:30 AM School choir sings
- 28 - 3:00 PM Market Day sale
- 27 - Indoor Skating begins

“Parent/Teacher Conferences”

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on:

Thursday, February 23rd from 3:00-7:00 PM and
Friday, February 25th from 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

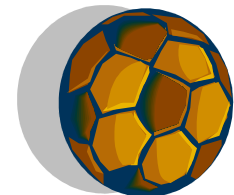
These conferences are by request only by either the classroom teacher and/or parents and are not mandatory.

February Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Donn Hempel | 24 - Carolyn Barry |
| 1 - Jeffrey Bettin | 26 - Robert Rundgren |
| 2 - Clarence Urban | |
| 4 - Joanna Czubernat | |
| 10 - Barb Arndt | |
| 18 - Evelyn Turner | |
| 20 - Rhonda Bollinger | |
| 21 - Emily Bramos | |



Immanuel's Indoor Soccer Program has begun and runs every Saturday (except the 11th) through March 10th. Refreshments will be sold.



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, February 2nd** at the Old School House at 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome to join us! Our next project is baby blankets for CareNet. We will be holding a “mock” baby shower on Palm Sunday, April 1st.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - 6:30 PM

VOTERS’ MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - 10:45 PM



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 - Mark 1:21-39 | |
| 2 - Acts 4:23-31 | |
| 3 - Ephesians 3:1-21 | 19 - Hebrews 4:14-5:10 |
| 4 - Ephesians 6:10-24 | 20 - Psalm 3 |
| 5 - Colossians 4:2-18 | 21 - Psalm 8 |
| | Ash Wednesday |
| 6 - 1 Samuel 2:1-11 | 22 - Psalm 4 |
| 7 - Daniel 9:1-19 | 23 - Psalm 5 |
| 8 - Jonah 2:1-10 | 24 - Psalm 6 |
| 9 - Matthew 6:1-18 | 25 - Psalm 16 |
| 10 - Psalm 51 | |
| 11 - Psalm 56 | First Sunday in Lent |
| | 26 Psalm 26 |
| 12 - Psalm 57 | 27 Psalm 27 |
| 13 - Matthew 4:1-11 | 28 Psalm 28 |
| 14 - Psalm 91 | 29 Psalm 30 |
| 15 - 2 Chronicles 1:1-13 | |
| 16 - 2 Chronicles 5:2-6:11 | |
| 17 - 2 Chronicles 6:12-42 | |
| 18 - 2 Chronicles 7:1-10 | |



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

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



February 5 -
9:30 AM - Chris Swasko

February 12 -
9:30 AM - Erica Lundt

February 19 -
9:30 AM - Sebastian Manilla

February 26 -
9:30 AM - Zachary Redis