

Immanuel Informer

“What’s Important versus What’s Urgent”

Recently I was at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast and the speaker was speaking about leadership both of self and of organizations. She had all of us in attendance complete a short exercise termed, *“The Tyranny of the Urgent.”* Basically the exercise involved putting our work tasks in one of four boxes. (The same could be done for personal goals and tasks)

The first box was labeled, Important and Urgent
The second box was labeled Important but not Urgent
The third box was labeled not Important but Urgent
The final box was labeled not Important and Not Urgent

The point of the exercise was to direct our focus to the items that were important and urgent, these are High Payoff Activities. But since these take the most effort and really demand time and energy, they often get by-passed for items that are not important and not urgent, but which can easily be done. So we do those because we then can say we accomplished something.

I thought about this exercise in terms of our Christian Faith. I specifically put the idea in the context of the parable of the Rich Fool in Luke’s Gospel 12:13-21. Undoubtedly the rich farmer felt that building new barns to hold his abundant harvest was both important and urgent. Because once he had done this he would be able to sit back and take life easy because he finally had enough harvest so he could take life easy. However God over-ruled the man’s decision and said to the man. *“You fool, You will die this very night...”* Jesus ends the parable saying. *“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”*

This is the challenge for each of us who bears the name Christian. It is likely that all of us would classify planning and saving for retirement as both an urgent and important task. But what all too often gets forgotten or pushed out of the important/urgent box is our relationship with Jesus our Lord and Savior. This is a relationship that takes work. It takes daily exercise to read and meditate on God’s Word. It takes time each day to have a conversation with God. It is hard to constantly remember that you are to live life reflecting God’s truth and will for your life. It is a challenge to remember that Jesus wants us to show our love for our neighbors in all our dealings.

The truth is that if we don’t make our relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior our most Important and most Urgent task, then we have planned and acted foolishly. Check your boxes today!

Pastor Jed

Financial News and Notes

As we come to the end of the fiscal year it is again a year of mixed news. It appears that we will finish the year with congregational giving up slightly from last year. That is just excellent and we praise God for the faithfulness of the people of Immanuel. The bad news is that school tuition is substantially below budget. This is due to a lower enrollment this past year in the day school. Overall expenses were below budget, which was largely due to not filling staff positions in the school. School operated with minimal staff thus holding down expenditures. We will however finish the year with more expenditures than revenue.

Coming into the next fiscal year the council has presented a budget with no salary increases for our staff, (the third year in a row). All of us should be working to tell people about our Day School and encourage enrollment. The budget as presented again is a challenging budget which includes a large deficit to overcome. Finally, as we thank God for all our blessings we ask and encourage each of you to continue to respond to the Good News of salvation that you have through Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior.

HILLSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friday, July 1 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM - Free "Ice Cream Social" on the porch - 700 N. Wolf Rd., Hillside.

Game Night - Wednesday, July 20 from 7-9 PM. \$10 Advance tickets (available at Hillside Village Hall) \$15 at the door. Know a lot about Hillside? Join us for a fun-filled evening and win prizes! Check these out..."Who was the first Mayor & what years did he serve?" "Remember the Shopping Center? Top number of stores?" "Oldest church in Hillside dates back to what year?"

Pit your skills against others at the Historical House. Compete for prizes & have fun! Cash bar and hot dogs available for purchase. Ticket proceeds to benefit the Historical Site renovation projects.

“Developing an Unselfish Character”

Scripture says, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world”* (Romans 12:2). The pattern of this world is to acquire and to hold on to material acquisitions. Romans 12:2 continues, *“but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* This transformation is brought about in you, the believer, through your relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, renews your mind so that, instead of following the pattern of the world, you seek to follow your Savior. Rather than acquiring and hoarding, which only leads to misery, not self fulfillment, you will want to give freely, even sacrificially, as Christ does.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 exhorts, *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”* Life that is truly life belongs to those who are unselfish givers. Giving is an indicator of your unselfishness and an outward litmus test of the inner condition of your heart.

The astonishing thing is that, in God’s economy, the more you give, the more you have left to give. Because God replenishes you, your giving can be a daily and a lifetime activity. *“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God”* (2 Corinthians 9:11).

A little girl exclaimed, “Poor Jesus!” when her mother told her that she had to give only one dime of her ten-dime allowance. May you acquire the same unselfish attitude as the little girl when you come to the Lord with your offering.

Immanuel Lutheran School News

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR THE FALL

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. Please visit our web site at www.immanuel-hillside.org

JULY MAILING

All families who have enrolled their child for the 2011-12 school year & are paid up with past fees will be receiving a mailing in July. Enclosed in that mailing will be all the information you will need for the coming school year.




“School Registration”

School registration will be held on Wednesday, August 17th 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 as 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. There will also be an “Ice Cream Social” at the same time sponsored by the PTL.

On Thursday, August 18th from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM, there will be an Open House to meet the teachers as well.

July Birthdays

- 2 - Philbert Wilcox Jr.
- 6 - Mike Contraveos
- 8 - Gay Svec
- 8 - Dave Swasko
- 10 - Steve Hadler
- 11 - John Wilkins
- 16 - Hillary Hempel
- 18 - Mike Hadler
- 23 - Dani Mbadu
- 24 - Rob Blair
- 25 - Patricia Winterhalter
- 26 - Virginia Mazanek
- 26 - Lisa Tipples
- 26 - Julie Bramos
- 30 - Len Mazanek
- 31 - Virginia Bauers
- 31 - Barbara Arnold

21ST ANNUAL WESTCHESTER FEST

Friday, July 8
6 PM - 11 PM

Saturday, July 9
12 Noon - 11 PM

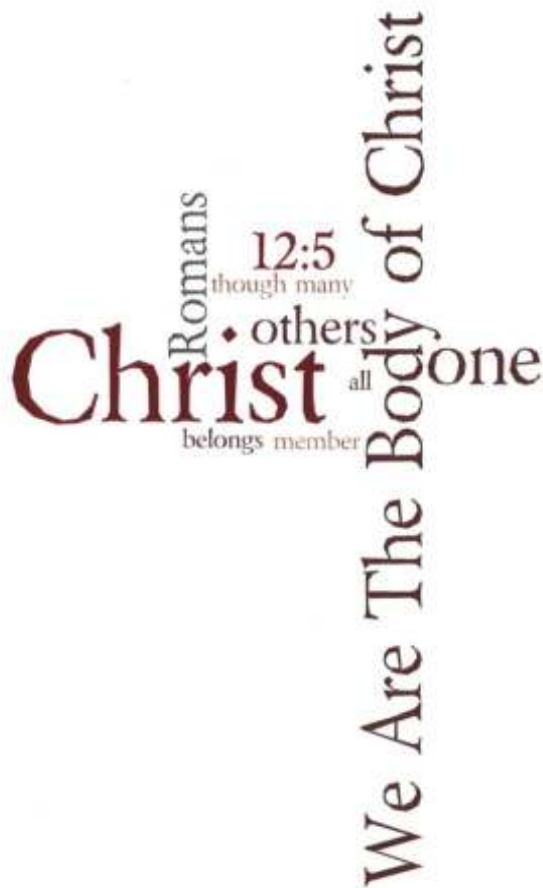
Sunday, July 10
12 Noon - 10 PM

On the grounds of St. Joseph High School
(10900 W. Cermak Rd.)

CARNIVAL - FOOD - RIDES

For more info, go to:
www.westchesterchamber.org

From the Principal's Desk



Each year, the staff selects a theme for the school year. The theme for the 2011-2012 school year is “We Are The Body of Christ” based on Romans, Chapter 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. These two chapters speak to our relationship as the body of believers in Christ. There are many lessons to be learned. The specific verse that will be highlighted is Romans 5:12, “so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other” (NLT). The graphic at the left will serve as a visual reminder of our theme.

In order to introduce the theme to the students, the staff will be doing a chancel drama during a chapel service. There are rumors that there will be feet, hands, ears, and eyes in attendance! As always, you are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings at 8:45 for chapel. We spend about a half hour in song, prayer, and scripture—with a little fun thrown in along the way!

Registration continues for the upcoming school year. We hope that you are out spreading the word about Immanuel Lutheran School. Thanks to Susan Mazanek for facilitating the printing of flyers and door hangers advertising the school and VBS! Thanks also to the individuals and families that have posted flyers and hung door hangers! We still

have flyers available for placement at local establishments. Pick up several flyers from the table at the back of the narthex or stop in the school office. Let us know where you post them! We want to track the results. We have school brochures available as well. Spread the Good News!

In Christ,

Lana J. Hahn

Check us out on Facebook! Immanuel Lutheran School has a Facebook page! This is a great way to see what is going on in the school. Try it--you'll like it!

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 be taking a break during the summer & will not meet in July and August. In September, we will start our scarves project again. (just in case you would like to start ahead of time and knit/crochet during the summer)

FOR THE RECORD:

Nothing to report



 **ALTAR GUILD INFO**

When you need flowers, please consider contacting Jean Quentere at *Signature Creations*, Jean Immanuel’s florist. Jean’s business is home based, nearby, and she provides outstanding flowers and customer service. Her number is 708-449-3044 and her web address is www.weddingflowerlady.com Jean can design floral arrangements for any occasion at competitive prices.

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**

JULY

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 - Corinthians 14.13-25 | |
| 2 - Numbers 6.22-27 | 20 - Nehemiah 6.15-7.4 |
| | 21 - Haggai 1.1-15 |
| 3 - Deut. 10.12-22 | 22 - Haggai 2.1-9 |
| 4 - Deut. 11.1-17 | 23 - Haggai 2.10-23 |
| 5 - Deut. 11.18-32 | |
| 6 - Joshua 23.1-16 | 24 - 1 Thess. 1.1-10 |
| 7 - Joshua 24.1-13 | 25 - 1 Thess. 2.1-16 |
| 8 - Joshua 24.14-28 | 26 - 1 Thess. 2.17-3.13 |
| 9 - Ruth 1.1-22 | 27 - 1 Thess. 4.1-12 |
| | 28 - 1 Thess. 4.13-5.11 |
| 10 - Ezra 3.1-7 | 29 - 1 Thess. 5.12-28 |
| 11 - Ezra 3.8-13 | 30 - 2 Thess. 1.1-12 |
| 12 - Ezra 5.1-17 | |
| 13 - Ezra 6.1-12 | 31 - 2 Thess. 2.1-17 |
| 14 - Ezra 6.13-22 | |
| 15 - Ezra 7.1-10 | |
| 16 - Ezra 7.11-28 | |
| 17 - Nehemiah 2.1-10 | |
| 18 - Nehemiah 2.11-20 | |
| 19 - Nehemiah 5.14-19 | |



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



July 3 -
9:30 AM Zachary Redis

July 10 -
NO ACOLYTE

July 17 - Christopher Swasko
9:30 AM

July 24 -
NO ACOLYTE

July 31 - Zachary Redis
9:30 AM