

“Does it Matter What You Believe?”

On a recent TV show, Fox News Host Bill O'Reilly was interviewing Franklin Graham and their discussion focused on how people get to heaven. Franklin Graham gave a wonderful explanation of what Biblical Christianity believes. Simply that there is only one way to heaven and that is through Jesus Christ, confessing and believing Jesus to be God's son, that he died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and rose from the dead promising us eternal life. Mr. O'Reilly could not get over the belief that if a person who has lived a good life here on earth, certainly they must be allowed into heaven. And Franklin Graham again said that it was based on Faith and God's grace alone not on works. And still Bill O'Reilly could not fathom this idea.

A few days after seeing this interview, a news release came out from the Barna Group which surveys people about a variety of religious beliefs and opinions. It was interesting to see what percentage of the people believed like Mr. Graham and what percentage thought like Mr. O'Reilly. It was startling to see that 48% of the people surveyed thought that those who live a good life and/or do enough good things for others will earn a place in heaven. This is not what the Bible teaches!

43% of the people surveyed said that it did not matter which religious faith you follow because they all teach the same lessons. And 40% of the people adopted a philosophy of Universalism which says that all people will eventually be saved by God, no matter what they have done. Again that is not what the Bible teaches. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14. *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate that leads to life and only a few find it”*

Another startling statistic was that 59% of adults believe that, “Christians and Muslims worship the same God even though they have different names and beliefs regarding God.” Again this is not true. Christians worship a triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And this God does all that is necessary for our salvation. Think about Jesus coming to earth, living without sin, dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Contrast this to the Muslim God, Allah, who is alone God, absolutely has no son and sends no spirit to be with his believers. In order to be saved as a Muslim you must uphold and practice the Five Pillars of Islam which involves, daily prayer, alms giving, pilgrimage to Mecca to name only three. A Muslim is only saved by how well he pleases Allah. This is a huge difference. We should never be confused on this point.

There are not many religions which all lead to the same path, to the same God. Beliefs matter! God's Word in the Bible is true and essential to understand salvation, earthly life and eternal life.

Summer is coming and many of us take time to read a book or two. This summer sit down with a study Bible and work your way through one of the Gospels. Read no more than a chapter a day, some days maybe even less, read just the parable or the recording of one of Jesus' miracles. Learn what Jesus says, listen to his words, see him for who he really is, true man, and true God, who died to pay the price for your sins. Who rose to give to all who believe and confess him as Lord and Savior the promise of eternal life. It will change your life – it really matters!

Financial News and Notes

It is June, the last month of our Fiscal Year. As we come into this month we find ourselves once again behind in the area of payments to Worker Benefits, which provides health insurance and pensions for our full-time workers. (These are about \$10,000+ a month and we are two months behind) Since school ends this month and we stop getting any tuition payments we really need help in the next few weeks. Please if you got a tax refund or any additional money, consider making an extra gift to the church!

In reviewing the past year we thank God and each of you for your generous gifts and support. In addition to your regular contributions there was a very successful dinner auction; money was raised for Lutherbrook Children's center, CareNet Pregnancy Services and to provide burial for one of our own members. And we were able, by a special offering, to cover much of the large snow removal bills.

We encourage you to help us through this difficult summer period, when school is not in session and people are gone on vacations which cause us to get behind on our bills. Please be assured that unlike some other organizations we do not have a spending problem, we spend only on necessary items and we are very careful with every dollar we receive.

DRAGONSTYLE MARTIAL ARTS AND FITNESS PROGRAM

Dragonstyle Martial arts located here at Immanuel is a comprehensive fitness & self-defense system designed to promote, empower, and enhance mind, body, and spiritual fitness. The curriculum is diverse & challenging for all ages & skill types. Instructor Ray Shure teaches: Hapkido, Jujitsu, Family Martial Arts, Mixed Martial Arts, Karate, Meditation, Self Discipline, Self Respect, Self Awareness, Strength Training. Contact Ray for more info at dragonstylemartialarts@comcast.net or call 630.649.0490. Beginner classes forming now on Monday's 6:30-8:30 PM in the school gym.

CALLING ALL YOUTH GROUP AGE STUDENTS!! (7th grade through high school age)
WE WILL BE HOLDING A MEETING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH AT THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE FROM 6:00-8:00 PM.
BRING IDEAS AND YOUR FAVORITE PS3 GAME! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JULIE BRAMOS AT jbramos@immanuel-hillside.org or JOHN KYANKA AT jhawk98@juno.com



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.

Summer Fine Arts Camp for Kids

This summer, June 27-July 1 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, St. John's in La Grange is offering a creative faith-based Fine Arts Camp that encourages & challenges children's artistic expression through music, drama, movement and visual arts. Early Registration before June 1st is \$125; after June 1st \$150. Register online at www.sjlagrange.com/arts or call 708-354-1690 ex. 245.

“Your Giving Speaks”

At the appointed time in each church service, time is set aside to worship the Lord with our financial treasures. This time is sometimes referred to as taking the collection. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians regarding the collection: *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made"* (1 Corinthians 16:2).

The Greek word for collection means "to say something". When you put your money into the offering or collection plate, you are saying something. You are making a statement about what you value as a person as well as what your priorities are. Your giving, or lack thereof, says something about your understanding of stewardship, because the proportion of your income that you give tells what kind of steward you are. Your giving, or lack thereof, indicates whether your treasure is here on earth or in heaven.

Only by God’s grace are we enabled to give. We tend to want to hang on to what we think of as ours, out of greed, insecurity, and for others reasons as well. However, we, as redeemed children of God through Whom the Holy Spirit is working through word and Sacrament, can learn to rely on God instead of money for the provision of our needs.

Giving begins by acknowledging God’s ownership as well as trusting that God will provide. When you give generously, you are saying that you believe God to be the owner and provider of all things. May your faithful giving be a response to our faithful Lord Who has first given to you.

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GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY in Chicago will be holding a Car Wash & Bake Sale on Saturday, June 4th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church in Western Springs. The address is 4101 S. Wolf Road. (2 blocks south of Ogden Ave.) All proceeds will help the 7th & 8th grade students pay for their class trip to historic Atlanta Georgia. The Car Wash is a free-will offering event.

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 - 7th & 8th grade class trip
- 6 - Manna orders due
- 7 - 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting
- 8 - 2:00 PM PreK Promotion
- 8 - 7:00 PM 8th Grade and Kindergarten Graduation
- 9 - 8:15 AM Chapel Service
- 9 - Field Days
- 9 - Last Day of School
11:30 AM Early Dismissal
- 20-24 - 6:00-8:30 PM Vacation Bible School
- 26 - 10:45 AM Church Voters' Meeting

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, THURSDAY JUNE 9TH

EARLY DISMISSAL 11:30 A.M.





“Vacation Bible School”

Immanuel Lutheran's Vacation Bible School will be **Pan-daMania**, where God is Wild about you! **PandaMania** is filled with incredible Bible learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! There are crafts, games, Bible songs, and snacks, all with a wild PandaMania theme. VBS will run from June 20th - June 24th from 6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. for children ages 3 yrs. To 6th grade. Call Alicia Blair at 344-5182 for additional information. Registration form included in this publication, and available in the narthex or school front hall.



On Wednesday, June 8th at 2:00 PM, preschoolers receiving their “Certificate of Promotion” are: Taylor Covington, Milani Dixon, Ella Forgue, Daniel Heerboth, Joshua Mathews, Felecia Means, Jake Mitchell, and Rhyanna Smith.

June Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 - Jelisa Washington | 18 - Tom Tetzler |
| 3 - Viola Lenc | 20 - Jean Benson |
| 3 - Eva Lundt | 20 - Jake Mitchell |
| 10 - Ed Ivers | 21 - June Adams |
| 10 - Scott Mazanek | 24 - Joshua Svec |
| 11 - Emma Andrews | 28 - Brenda Croce |
| 12 - Marquetta Hayes | 29 - Philbert Wilcox Sr. |
| 12 - Marcus Hayes | 30 - Paul Haycraft |
| 13 - Manny Lepe | |



From the Principal's Desk

Last year at this time, I shared some stories about several students that were impacted by their time at Immanuel. Below you find two of those stories and updates on those students.

A few years ago, a five year old was enrolled in kindergarten. He was a sweet boy and had a really great year. At the end of the year, his mom decided that he would not be returning the next year due to financial considerations. During the child's time at Immanuel, his grandfather began to attend church services at Immanuel. Even when the child transferred to another school, his grandfather continued to attend services at Immanuel. Today, the grandfather is a member of Immanuel and has a leadership role in the congregation. **The best news is that young man will be returning to Immanuel for 2011-2012 school year as a fifth grade student. We will be happy to welcome him back!**

Another student came to Immanuel for junior high. He had some special needs and had not experienced much success in school. His mother had pretty much given up on him, and his grandmother brought him to Immanuel. Through the small class size, individualized instruction, and the nurturing of teachers, he was able to successfully graduate from Immanuel. Today, he is in high school and doing well. At Immanuel, he learned more than just math and reading. He learned to have confidence in himself as a learner. **He stops in to see us about once a year just to say hello. We had a visit from this young man recently. He was thrilled to come back to let us know that he was graduating from high school this year and would be starting college this fall. What a transformation!**

There are some great things going on right now at Immanuel as well!



Some of you had the opportunity to attend the spring musical—School House Rock Live, Jr. It was really an amazing experience! All of the hard work and practice really paid off as the show was a hit! You may not realize that it is highly unusual for a school to put on a performance that includes every student in the school. This is the Immanuel tradition. Every student was in attendance and participating—four year old pre-kindergartners through eighth grade! You may not recognize that, under the direction of Mr. Hempel, every staff member took part in choreography, sets, props, and practices. It was truly a team effort! Finally, thank you to all the parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends that attended the performance. Your energy and enthusiasm helped us to do our very best.

Recently the fifth through eighth grade students attended a track meet at Concordia Chicago. Again, every student in these grades attended and participated in the meet. There were many running, jumping, and throwing events. The participants included area Lutheran schools of all sizes. Our students did really well and are sure to receive ribbons. Coach John will be sharing the official results when available. Our students did exceptionally well in another way. They showed exceptional Christian sportsmanship by following the rules of the meet and supporting one another's efforts. The staff that accompanied the students was very proud of the example set by Immanuel students. Way to go, Cardinals!



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)


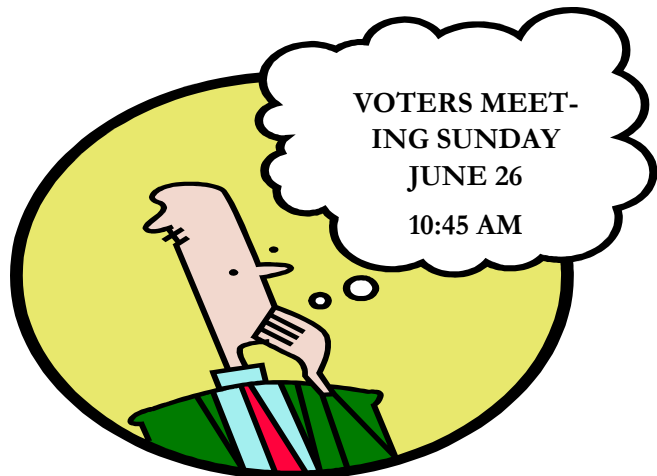
Sunday School classes on Sundays at 8:30 AM
 Adult Bible Study on Sundays at 8:30 AM
 Self-Defense classes Mondays at 7:00 PM
 Confirmation classes Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
 Darts Tuesdays at 8:00 PM
 Adult Choir Rehearsals Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
 Men’s Club every second Saturday of the month
 8:00 AM
 Prayer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

Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting on **Thursday, June 2** at 7:00 PM at the Old School House (4733 Cermak Rd. - behind the Verizon store). See Patricia Contraveos if you have any questions. We will be taking a break during the summer & will not meet in July and August. In September, we will start our scarves project again.

FOR THE RECORD:

Deaths -
Audrey Zang - April 19
Eleanore Hinz - April 30

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**

JUNE

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - Psalm 136 | |
| Ascension Day | 19 - Acts 4.23-37 |
| 2 - Acts 1.1-11 | 20 - Acts 5.1-16 |
| 3 - Acts 1.12-26 | 21 - Acts 6.1-15 |
| 4 - John 14.15-31 | 22 - Acts 8.4-13 |
| | 23 - Acts 8.14-25 |
| 5 - Romans 12.1-8 | 24 - Acts 8.26-40 |
| 6 - Galatians 5.16-26 | 25 - Acts 10.1-16 |
| 7 - Galatians 6.1-10 | |
| 8 - Ezekiel 36.16-38 | 26 - Acts 10.17-33 |
| 9 - Ezekiel 37.1-14 | 27 - Acts 10.34-48 |
| 10 - Ezekiel 39.21-29 | 28 - 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 |
| 11 - Joel 2.28-3.8 | 29 - 1 Corinthians 12.12-31 |
| Pentecost | 30 - 1 Corinthians 14.1-12 |
| 12 - Acts 2.1-13 | |
| 13 - Acts 2.14-36 | |
| 14 - Acts 2.37-47 | |
| 15 - Acts 3.1-10 | |
| 16 - Acts 3.11-26 | |
| 17 - Acts 4.1-12 | |
| 18 - Acts 4.13-22 | |





Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (_____) _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Hand this form in to the Immanuel Church Office
or register at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/e7/ImmanuelVBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 20 - JUNE 24 - 6:30 P.M.
Ages 3 yrs. - 6th Grade

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



**June 5 -
9:30 AM - Mia Railing**

**June 12 -
NO ACOLYTE**

**June 19 -
9:30 AM Christopher Swasko**

**June 26 -
NO ACOLYTE**