

Immanuel Informer

“What Does It Mean To Love?”

I would venture to say that if I asked everyone to write out their definition of love I would get a wide variety of answers. Love is something that means different things to different people. Remember the series of Cards and wall plaques that said Love is a Warm Puppy, Love is a Fluffy Kitten and on and on.

Jesus talks about Love as one of the primary duties of a Christian believer and he defines the two important tasks that we are to love the Lord our God and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Last month we looked at loving God. This month we want to look at what it means to: **Love our Neighbor as ourselves.**

We begin with sharing the Love of Christ with all. You have in your possession the cure for cancer, the cure for Aids, and the fountain of Youth that adventurers the world over have sought and died to find. Are you going to keep that for yourself or are you going to share it with others who need it? The world is a sin-sick, dying place where people without Jesus as their Lord and Savior are doomed forever. They are plunged into the reaches of hell and eternal separation from God. Loving our neighbor says that we will share the secret to eternal life, the cure for sin sickness with, all that we can. Love dictates that we must do this.

Caring and supporting each other in the gathering of believers. One of the benefits of being a Christian and being a part of a gathering of believers is that there is love and support in the community of believers. Long before government started to provide social services, it was the church that cared for its orphans and widows. Look at who started the hospitals in our country – Christian people to provide for the care of their fellow believers. We show our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ by helping out when there is a need.

As God has gifted us, to provide for the care and support of our neighbors. As noted above we care not only for our brothers and sisters in Christ, but we extend that love to our fellow citizens who are also creations of our great God. By providing care and support we have the opportunity to show the love that we have for Christ through our care for our neighbors.

To perform acts of service and love on a daily basis. There is that whole series of commercials that show how one person performing an act of kindness can influence a whole series of people to act in the same way. Showing love and kindness to strangers, or even to those with whom we disagree, speaks loudly of the power of Christ's love in our lives. Christ did not come to us when we were perfect and lovely people, rather he came to us when we were sinners and lost to him. The more we show love to others, the more we show that we are truly Christ's disciples and followers.

“Jesus replied; ‘If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching...He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.’” John 14:23-24

Pastor Ted

“God’s Gifts”

“We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be:
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.”

It is obvious that there is nothing we can give to the Lord that is our own. Our bodies, our mental faculties, our individual talents and abilities - these have been given to us by God.

The food we grow comes from seed created by the Lord, planted in soil provided by the Lord, nurtured by the warmth and light of the sun given by the Lord, and watered by the rain sent by the Lord.

The goods and produce we manufacture with our hands and machines are made possible through abilities given by God, just as Moses reminded the Israelites. *“But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth...”* (Deuteronomy 8:18). The benefits from our occupations are blessings received from God. God gives us the abilities, and we have the responsibility to use His gifts with energy and wisdom. God makes our income and wealth possible.

When we contribute to our church we are simply returning to God what He has already entrusted to us. *“What do you have that you did not first receive?”* (1 Corinthians 4:7). We have nothing to give Him that is our own. If God in His wisdom determines to give us much, much will be expected of us (Luke 12:48).

God gave - this is the reason for our being and our giving. He gave His all - Jesus Christ so that we might have abundant life. We find this life by losing our lives in total commitment to God through Christ.

Stewardship is an open hand to receive God’s gift of love and an extended hand to share it with others. Your willingness to share your time, talent, and treasure is the measure of your gratitude and commitment to Christ. During this Thanksgiving Season, may God help all of us live with an attitude of gratitude for who God is and what He has done and continues to do for us.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND NOTES

IF YOU WERE IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, YOU SAW A SPECIAL INSERT UPDATING YOU ON THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WE ARE CURRENTLY FACING. YOU WERE INFORMED THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE BEHIND IN PAYING OUR BENEFIT PAYMENTS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE AND PENSION FUNDS FOR OUR EMPLOYEES. YOU SAW THAT WE STRUGGLED TO MAKE PAYROLL THE 1ST OF OCTOBER.

YOU ALSO LEARNED THAT WE CANNOT SPEND GRANT FUNDS, SAFE SCHOOL MONEY, OR OTHER DESIGNATED GIFTS TO PAY SALARIES AND BENEFITS. SO WHILE ON ONE HAND WE ARE MAKING SOME CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (FUNDED BY A SPECIAL GIFT), ON THE OTHER WE STRUGGLE WITH ON-GOING OPERATING EXPENSES.

YOU ALSO READ THE VERY IMPORTANT POINT THAT: *Good Christian Stewardship is the heartfelt and joyous response of God's people to the Grace, Mercy, and Love of God shown to them through His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Good Christian Stewardship is not giving to a budget!*

SO IT IS GOOD AND PROPER THAT WE KEEP YOU INFORMED AS TO THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE CONGREGATION. YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE TO THE GOSPEL, THE KNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS LIVED, DIED AND ROSE TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS AND PROVIDE YOU THE PROMISE OF LIFE ETERNAL WITH HIM. WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL YOUR GIFTS AND FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP.

SAVE THE DATE! MEN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School invites the community, our day school & Sunday school children & parents, current and former members to attend our Annual Pancake Day & Bake Sale. The event is located at 2317 S. Wolf Rd. in the school gym FROM 8:00 am to 12:00 Noon. There is a free will offering for pancakes/sausage/coffee/juice/milk. Baked items can be purchased. The proceeds will be donated to Voice of Hope (Prison/Correctional Ministry). Deaconess Lori Wilbert is their

local representative.

Immanuel Lutheran School News

MARKET DAY

Order forms are available in the church narthex.

Future pick up dates:

November 24

January 5

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1



IMPORTANT EVENTS:

- 1 - Science Olympics
- 5 - PTL Variety Show 6:00 PM
- 9 - NO SCHOOL
- 10 - Report cards go home
- 10 - Math Club
- 11 - Veteran's Day 1:45 PM
- 11 - Cooking Club
- 12 - Parent/Teacher conferences
- 13 - NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher conferences
- 16 - Board Game Time
- 17 - Picture retakes
- 20-22 - Girls' BB Tourney
- 24 - Market Day pick up 3:00 PM
- 25 -27 - NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Day holiday & break

MONTHLY EVENTS (unless otherwise noted)

- 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

Walther Lutheran H.S. will host an open house on Sunday, November 15th at 3:00 pm. These dates provide an excellent opportunity to explore your option for continuing in Lutheran education. Learn about Walther's ability to prepare students for college as they continue in an education anchored in Christian teaching. Meet with the faculty, talk with current students, and learn about Walther's many fine programs.

We will start collecting after Thanksgiving until Christmas. There will be a drop off box in the Narthex as well as at the school entrance. Items to donate include: all canned goods, noodles, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, rice, etc. Thank you in advance for your support.

NO SCHOOL - Monday, November 9 - records day

NO SCHOOL - Friday, November 13th - Parent/teacher conferences

NO SCHOOL - Weds., Thurs., Fri., November 25-27 - Thanksgiving

November Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Alicia Blair | 13 - Marcial Serrano |
| 3 - Leslie Northcutt | 17 - Dorothy Francis |
| 4 - Ron Hahn | 18 - Lorie Tetzler |
| 4 - Ezecka Serrano | 19 - Dorothy Ivers |
| 4 - Christine Bell | 20 - Jessica Trznadel |
| 5 - Michael Mannella | 24 - Erica Lundt |
| 6 - Daniel Stallings | |
| 10 - Deborah Trznadel | |
| 11 - Jacob Czubernat | |



Attention 8th graders! Are you looking for a unique academic challenge? Would you appreciate an opportunity to measure yourself against other high achieving students in the Chicago-land area? Walther Lutheran will offer 8th grade students the opportunity to take the ACT Test (a college entrance exam) on Saturday, November 14th. Test results from 8th grade are NOT included as part of your permanent file. Walther will send the results directly to you and they remain confidential. Talk with your principal or 8th grade teacher.

From the Principal's Desk

What is Thanksgiving? Is it paper turkeys, cornucopias, and pilgrim hats? Is it beautifully browned turkey with all the trimmings? The steaming stuffing, the cranberry salad, and the pumpkin pie? Is it aunts and uncles and cousins gathered around the table? Is it college football? Is it a day off from work and a time for relaxation? How much of our Thanksgiving celebrations have to do with giving thanks to the Lord?

According to Wikipedia, Thanksgiving Day is a festival to give thanks and express gratitude for the harvest. Many American families and friends gather together on this day for a feast. Although there is some debate over the actual origins of Thanksgiving, many attribute the first Thanksgiving to the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians at Plymouth Plantation in 1631. There is no evidence that it was an annual event! Thanksgiving has been celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November since 1862. It became a federal holiday in 1941.

For Christians, "thanks-giving" is a daily event as we recall our abundant blessings from God. All that we have is a gift from God—don't forget to thank the giver of the gifts! The Bible provides many examples of "thanks-giving." Ezra 3:11 recalled, "With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: 'He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid." In Psalm 69:30, David declared, "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." In Psalm 147:7, David praises the Lord "sing to the LORD with thanksgiving." St. Paul, when writing to the church in Corinth stated, "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." These are just a few of the many examples of "thanks-giving" in the Bible.

Back to the original question - What is Thanksgiving? Is it a day or is it your life? It all depends on your perspective. This Thanksgiving let your prayers and expressions of love focus toward our Heavenly Father.

In Christ,

Lana J. Hahn

VETERANS' DAY – NOVEMBER 11

There will be a special presentation and chapel service that day at 1:45 PM to honor all veterans and those that are still serving. Please join us.





PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

In November, until Thanksgiving, we will be making scarves for local homeless shelters and invite everyone to join us in this effort. If you are not a yarn person, you can make a fleece scarf. Supplies will be provided. Please take a kit from the pew in the narthex or contact Patricia Contraveos. If you prefer to make a scarf of your own design, please do. Donations of yarn are always welcome! We will be meeting at the Old School House on Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 PM.

Please turn in your scarves as you finish them. All the items made will be blessed in our church service on Thanksgiving Eve.

FOR THE RECORD

Deaths -
Grace Scott - September 29



REMINDER:

**CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING -**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

6:30 PM.

**VOTERS' MEETING SUN-
DAY, NOVEMBER 22,
10:45 AM**

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**

NOVEMBER

All Saints Day

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - 1 Chronicles 16:1-13 | 18 - Psalm 148 |
| 2 - 1 Chronicles 16:14-36 | 19 - Psalm 149 |
| 3 - Deuteronomy 26:1-15 | 20 - Psalm 150 |
| 4 - Daniel 4:28-37 | 21 - Revelation 4:1-11 |
| 5 - Psalm 95 | 22 - Revelation 5:1-14 |
| 6 - Psalm 96 | 23 - Revelation 19:1-10 |
| 7 - Psalm 98 | 24 - 1 Timothy 4:1-16 |
| 8 - Psalm 99 | 25 - 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 |
| 9 - Psalm 100 | 26 - 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 |
| 10 - Psalm 104 | 27 - 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 |
| 11 - Psalm 112 | 28 - Psalm 65 |
| 12 - Psalm 113 | |
| 13 - Psalm 116 | |
| 14 - Psalm 118 | |
| 15 - Psalm 126 | |
| 16 - Psalm 138 | |
| 17 - Psalm 147 | |

First Sunday in Advent

- 29 - Psalm 66
- 30 - Psalm 67





Effective immediately we will be ordering flowers from Jean and Sandi Quentere of *Signature Creations, Jean*, an independent home-based florist in Hillside. The cost for two bouquets is \$40 with checks to be made payable to *Signature Creations, Jean*. All other ordering procedures will remain the same as outlined in the notice and order book located in the narthex. Jean and Sandi can provide flower arrangements for any occasion. Their phone number is (708) 449-3044 and their website is www.weddingflowerlady.com.

THANKSGIVING EVE CHURCH SERVICE

(with Holy Communion)

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 25, 2009

AT

7:00 P.M.



(FOLLOWED BY PIE & COFFEE)



Gifts for Soldiers in Afghanistan

ILC&S will be collecting items for soldiers that are currently serving in Afghanistan. We actually asked the soldiers they needed. Listed below are the items requested. If you would like to donate item(s), please place your donation in the drop box in the back of the church or school. The collection will continue through November 25th. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Hardy (1st/2nd) or Mrs. Hahn.

Food Items: peanuts, corn nuts, sunflower seeds, Gatorade, Kool Aid pouches, powdered drink mix, individual snacks, jell-o, pudding, cheese/crackers, trail mix, slim jims, individual oatmeal packages, individual soup cans and instant soup, hard candy, life savers, jolly ranchers, tic tacs, etc.

Writing & Fun Materials: Travel board games, crossword puzzles, stationary/journals, disposable cameras, playing cards, blank greeting cards, magazines, paperback books, Frisbees.

Other: Batteries (all except AA), sewing kits, small flashlights, blankets, single sheet sets, Ziploc bags, AT&T pre-paid Global Calling Cards.

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

November 1 -
9:30 AM - Zachary Blair

November 8 -
9:30 AM - Brett Willis

November 15 -
9:30 AM - J.T. Redis

November 22 -
9:30 AM - Joshua DuBois

November 25 - Thanksgiving Eve
7:00 PM - Selena Perez

November 29 -
9:30 AM - Mia Raifing



November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Coffee	2 6:00 PM Self Defense	3	4 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	5 6:00 PM PTL Variety Show 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group (OSH) 6:30 PM Elders Mtg.	6 7:00 PM Adult Volleyball	7 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Pancake Breakfast Science Olympics
8 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee	9 NO SCHOOL (records day) 6:00 PM Self Defense	10 Report cards go home 3:00 PM Math Club 6:30 PM Council	11 Veteran's Day 3:00 PM Cooking Club 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences	13 NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences	14
15 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Coffee	16 3:00 PM Game Time 6:00 PM Self Defense	17 School picture retakes/sports/ groups pictures 8:00 PM Darts (home)	18 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	19 7:00 PM Adult Volleyball	20 7:00 PM Adult Volleyball	21
22 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee 10:45 AM Voters' Mtg.	23 6:00 PM Self Defense	24 3:00 PM Market Day pick up 8:00 PM Darts (away)	25 NO SCHOOL No Confirmation 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service Coffee & pie follows	26 Thanksgiving Day NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29 8:30 AM SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Coffee	30 6:00 PM Self Defense					