

Immanuel Informer

“COMMIT TO 10 - 10 - 10”

Starting Sunday October 10, 2010

Commit to Worship

Commit to ten consecutive weeks of attendance at Worship.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” Heb 10:24-25

Commit to Prayer

Commit to ten weeks of praying for our assembly of believers and those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. A prayer will be provided for each week. *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people.” 1st Timothy 2:1*

Commit to the Tithe

Commit to giving 10% of what God has given to you for ten weeks.

“Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘how have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions...Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” Malachi 3:8&10

We are preparing to stop talking and start walking our faith. *“Little children let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth” 1st John 3:18* **We can no longer be just hearers of the word, we must be doers of the word. But we must be like the Macedonian Christians;** *“But they gave themselves first to the Lord.” 2nd Cor 8:5*

Through ten weeks of commitment in worship, prayer and offerings we will have given ourselves to the Lord and to each other. From that point of a deepening spiritual commitment we will be ready to move to the next step of a living breathing faith and community of believers.

All of this preparation is for after the first of the year when we will start some more small groups to learn how to share our faith. We will start to actively work to invite more people to be a part of our fellowship. And finally we will look to expand opportunities for people to know and be a part of us.

As Lutherans we have learned to fight against salvation by works, but in doing so we have oftentimes failed to do the good work of sharing the Gospel with those who do not know Christ. Martin Luther writing about St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesian Christians says this. *(Paul) “goes on to teach that we are to practice and prove our faith with good works.”* (Concordia Self Study Bible, page 1802)

We pray that you will join us and commit to 10 – 10 – 10!

“Making a Difference”

Do you find it interesting, as I do, that God has made us different in so many ways? Looking around the church I see that some of us are short, others tall; some of us wear glasses, others don't, some of us like sports, some of us like to fish and hunt, others like computers. Some of us like and are good at music while others aren't. God has given us different interests, talents, desires, and gifts. God also gives us different careers. He made us carpenters, business people, doctors, plumbers, teachers, etc. We don't look or sound alike, but as Christians we do have much in common. As God's children, we believe that He has created us and loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for each of us. We know that He calls and knows us by name, and we are united in our faith.

As God's people, we also have a common task as Ephesians 4:12 states, *“that the body of Christ may be built up.”* God in His infinite wisdom allows us to choose how to serve Him best. As we contemplate how best we can serve the Lord, it is good to remember that God will empower us so we can faithfully use our God-given talents for His kingdom. God didn't make us and give us so much without giving us, as well, the ability for the tasks He gives us to do. Think of the account of the tongue-tied Moses whom God equipped to be the leader of a vast nation. Study the life of David, an obscure shepherd boy, whom God prepared to be king. Marvel at God's patience with Gideon who asked for test after test before he was confident enough to undertake the task God entrusted him. We might find new situations and challenges to be a bit risky or uncomfortable, but just as God was with Moses, David, and Gideon, He will be with us all the way. With His help, we will find ways our time and talents can make a difference.

Ephesians 4:16 reads, *“From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”* It is important and essential that we do our parts to support the body of Christ. We could easily compare this to a basketball team, which requires the contribution of each player. The guards need to bring the ball down the court, run the offense, make the correct passes and contribute in scoring. The forwards need to rebound and score, along with the center. All of the positions have to contribute on defense. Each team member plays a unique role and is valuable to the team. If one of them fails to contribute, the whole team suffers. We each have a part to contribute on God's team. We can be effective in reaching the unchurched and building up the church when we all contribute. God gives us talents and gifts so we can use them to His glory in His church. When we let God work through us, we can make a difference.

OLDER ADULT GATHERING

The Older Adult Gathering, sponsored by Lutheran Life Communities in cooperation with the Northern Illinois & English Districts of the LCMS, will be held at the Starved Rock State Park Lodge in Utica, October 5-7. This gathering provides inspiration & education, as well as a great opportunity for Christian fellowship. Contact Brenda at 847-368-7483 to request registration brochures. You can reserve your room today by calling Starved Rock at 800-898-7625 & ask for block #3146.

Financial News and Notes

School has started. Kids are in the building and everything seems back to normal. Except as you know enrollment, due in a large measure to the economy, is down well below our expectations. Staff has been reduced and every effort is being made to control costs and reduce spending. In order to get through July and August we needed to borrow from a reserve fund and were largely dependent upon money received from the estate of Lenore Schlensker. These two sources provided over \$30,000 of money we did not have, to keep salaries and benefits paid.

We are battling with Commonwealth Edison over their request to post a deposit of more than \$1,700. We have struggled to pay Com Ed and have admittedly been late each month for the last several months. That's when Com Ed put a demand on us to post a deposit. We have battled this but Com Ed has persisted and had scheduled us for a service cut off on Friday 9/24. We contacted the Illinois Commerce Commission to ask them to intervene in this matter, since we have paid our bills along with late charges, and have been a customer for decades. We believe the deposit request is unreasonable.

We tell you this to help you understand that staff invests a lot of time trying to keep operations going and dealing with the variances in offerings and tuition payments, while trying to pay our suppliers. We still owe Nicor money as well as other suppliers. We hope that all of you understand that by approving the deficit budget we did, that we are going to have difficult times and issues. We no longer have huge reserve funds that we can tap into and every dollar counts.

That said, we do thank those of you who make the effort to be constant and generous in your offerings. We thank God for each of you and we encourage everyone to make an effort to support this ministry through regular contributions and participation in the fundraising events and activities we have. May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

MONTHLY EVENTS (unless otherwise noted)

- Sunday School classes on Sundays at 8:30 AM
- Adult Bible Study on Sundays at 8:30 AM
- Adult Bible Study on Wednesdays 10:30 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, October 7th** at 7:00 PM at the Old School House (4733 Cermak Rd. - behind the Verizon store). See Patricia Contraveos if you have any questions. Their project from now until Thanksgiving will again be scarves, hats, mittens, etc. for BEDS in La Grange. Yarn is available in the Narthex or at the Old School House.

FOR THE RECORD

Transfer Out -
Amy Hurt



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**

OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 -Exodus 20:1-21 | |
| 2 - Exodus 23:1-13 | 19 - Amos 5:1-27 |
| | 20 - Micah 3:1-12 |
| 3 - 1 Cor. 11:17-34 | 21 - Micah 6:6-16 |
| 4 - Leviticus 19:1-18 | 22 - Psalm 94 |
| 5 - Leviticus 19:19-37 | 23 - Romans 14:1-12 |
| 6 - Leviticus 25:1-17 | |
| 7 - Leviticus 25:18-34 | 24 - Romans 14:13-23 |
| 8 - Leviticus 25:35-55 | 25 - James 4:1-10 |
| 9 - Ezra 6:1-12 | 26 - James 4:11-5:6 |
| | 27 - Matthew 23:1-12 |
| 10 - Job 34:1-37 | 28 - Matthew 23:13-36 |
| 11 - Isaiah 2:1-22 | 29 - Matthew 25:31-46 |
| 12 - Isaiah 5:8-30 | 30 - Luke 3:1-20 |
| 13 - Isaiah 26:1-21 | |
| 14 - Isaiah 28:1-13 | Reformation Day |
| 15 - Isaiah 28:14-29 | 31 - John 8:31-59 |
| 16 - Isaiah 42:1-9 | |
| 17 - Ezekiel 34:1-10 | |
| 18 - Ezekiel 34:11-31 | |



What should we know about Islam?

There has been much in the news about a group that wants to build a mosque and Islamic community center close to the site of the 9/11 attacks in New York City. While no one rejects the constitutional right to build this center, many people have questioned the propriety of doing so. In order for us to be informed we should understand a bit about the Islamic religion and some facts about what Muslims believe.

Islam as a formal religion really has no central control or central church – there is no equivalent to the Pope, or the President of the LCMS. Islam came into being in the 500's A.D. It does not claim to be a new religion rather it claims to be a continuation of all former religious principles decreed by God through his prophets. Jesus is one such prophet among many, but Mohammed is the last and the greatest of these prophets. The five basic beliefs of Islam are:

1. There is only one God, Allah.
2. Mohammed is the last and greatest of the prophets
3. The Qur'an is the sacred book, the last one after the Torah and Bible.
4. Life on earth is preparation for eternal life

The faithful are expected to adore Allah, praise Muhammad, follow the Qur'an and perform good deeds.

We should understand that Allah is not the same God that we worship! Our God is one God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To say that Jesus is God's Son is blasphemy to a Muslim because there is no one divine except Allah. They reject the triune God.

Since Mohammed is the last and greatest of the prophets his word is correct and supersedes anything said by Jesus or any of the other prophets. We disagree, Jesus is God, his word is true and without error.

The Qur'an was supposedly dictated to Mohammed by the angel Gabriel, Mohammed was illiterate and so he memorized what Gabriel said and repeated it to others. (This is similar to Joseph Smith receiving the Golden Tablets of the book of Mormon which only he saw and then destroyed.) The Bible was written by men through the work of the Holy Spirit and there are many written records creating a complete picture of the word of God. We are warned to avoid adding to the words of God. Plus much of the Bible is verifiable through additional historical writings and documents, along with verification of dates, times, people and places.

Islam has difficulty advocating itself as a religion of peace. More so than any other religion conversion to Islam has been the result of military action. Also the Qur'an has repeated instructions to kill those who do not believe in Allah and Mohammed as his prophet. So in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and many other countries in the Middle East, while their constitutions say they have freedom of religion, conversion to any religion except Islam is punishable by death. There is also significant persecution of Christians in those lands. (In reality most of the Crusades were efforts to repel the forceful take over of the Holy Land by Muslims. Even in the 1500's when Luther founded the Reformation, history tells us that the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor were busy repelling "the Turks" Muslim armies advancing on the European continent.)

Finally, there is an issue of Muslims erecting 'Victory Monuments' in captured and defeated territories. I have a list of close to twenty such examples. Most famous and to Judaism the most aggravating is the Dome of the Rock built in 691, after Islam conquered Jerusalem, on the Temple mount, the site of the temple in Jerusalem. After the conquest of Egypt in the 800 and 900's most Coptic Christian Churches and Synagogues were turned into Mosques.

So while the intent of the people constructing the Mosque and Community Center in Manhattan may not view this as a 'Victory Monument' many in the Islamic religion will perceive it just as that, especially those who hold to the more radical views of Islam.

So should we be tolerant and not be concerned about this? The answer is no! First, let's understand that Islam is not a tolerant religion. The Qur'an speaks strongly about converting infidels, non-believers in Allah, or killing them. Biblical Christianity on the other hand, says clearly that there is one way to Salvation and it is through Jesus Christ. But notice that we are not instructed to kill non-believers rather we are to tell them out of love that salvation through Jesus is available for all. We want to pray for those who follow Islam to come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior!

Immanuel Lutheran School News



**NO SCHOOL ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER
11TH - COLUMBUS
DAY HOLIDAY**

WALCAMP OUTDOOR MINISTRIES in Kingston, Illinois invites you to attend their Annual Fall Fest on Sunday, October 3rd. Worship at 10:00 AM. Games, music, activities and entertainment from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Check their web site www.walcamp.org for more info. Walcamp is located at 32653 Five Points Rd. in Kingston. 815-784-5141. Maps available on narthex back table.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 - School pictures
- 1-2 Rummage Sale
- 5 - 6:30 PM PTL meeting
- 11 - No school
- 12 - Mid-trimester reports
- 13 - 3:00 PM Cooking Club
- 15-17 - Girls' VB Tourney
- 24 - 9:30 AM Students sing at Immanuel
- 25-26 - Accreditation Visiting Team
- 26 - 3:00 PM Market Day sale

**MARKET DAY
SALE
TUESDAY
OCTOBER 26TH
3:00-4:00 PM
Pick up**

IMMANUEL SCHOOL BENEFITS BY YOUR PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING:

Campbells Labels for Education - By saving UPC codes, we receive a variety of items for our classrooms. **General Mills Box Tops for Education** - By saving specially marked box tops, we receive \$.10 for each one. (specially marked boxes are in the school & church halls for collection)

If you have a Visa credit card, you might consider applying for a "Target Red Card" Visa. By listing Immanuel Lutheran School as the school of your choice, we would receive 1% of all your purchases, regardless of where you use the card. Since this program began in 1997, Immanuel School has received close to \$2,000.00.

"Rummage Sale"

Immanuel's PTL will be sponsoring their annual Fall Rummage Sale on Saturday, October 2nd from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Sorting of rummage will take place all day on Friday, October 1st beginning at 8:30 am. As usual, volunteers will be needed. If you are willing to help, please come either day. All helpers are welcome! Rummage may be brought to the school beginning Monday, September 27th.



October Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 - Don Bimler | 24 - Lucretia Hardy |
| 9 - Leonard Bettin | 25 - Shirley Blanford |
| 9 - Tom Harding | 27 - Julie Hadler |
| 15 - Irene Niko | 28 - Doretha Brown |
| 15 - Susan Redis | 30 - Sue DuBois |
| 17 - Macey Railing | 31 - Keith Francis |
| 19 - Evan Senne | |
| 21 - Jacob Blair | |
| 22 - Connor Senne | |



From the Principal's Desk

This is our year for re-accreditation by the National Lutheran School Association (NLSA). You may have heard about it at Voters' Meetings or in the Informer; but, what is it all about?

The purposes of NLSA are to help Lutheran schools to:

1. Evaluate themselves based upon their unique purposes and national standards through self-study
2. Improve

Accreditation is a process of self-evaluation followed by a visit of objective observers designed to help Lutheran schools improve the quality of their programs. The process is completely voluntary and available for every school operated by a LCMS church. It helps schools evaluate not only the quality of the academics and programs, but also most importantly the spiritual dimension of the school.

During the past year, the Immanuel school staff, school parents, and congregation members have been involved in completing the self-study. On October 25th and 26th, an accreditation team made up of the Northern Illinois District NLSA Commissioner and Lutheran educators will visit the school. They will review our report, observe classes, and examine exhibits. Based upon our report and their findings, the team will make recommendations regarding the improvement of the school. Ultimately, the team will either recommend the school for re-accreditation or require certain improvements before a recommendation can be made. The national association meets each summer to review all of the applications for accreditation. Final approval is not made until this time!

You might be wondering why we go through all of this since the process is a lot of work and voluntary. There are several reasons why we find NLSA accreditation valuable to us:

1. The NLSA is a process that helps our school improve.
2. Self-study and evaluation, based on a set of national standards, improve the quality of our school.
3. Our school gains greater self-respect.
4. Our school's public relations and recruitment could improve.
5. Accreditation is a public acknowledgement of quality.
6. National accreditation provides accountability to our community, constituents, and congregation.
7. Accreditation provides evidence of professionalism by our school and our staff and of an objective evaluation by educational professionals not personally involved in the school.
8. It helps our school evaluate and improve our unique ministry as a Lutheran School.
9. NLSA is international in scope, supported by more than 2,000 schools.
10. NLSA assures parents who move that a quality Lutheran school exists wherever NLSA accreditation is found.

Please keep the school in your prayers during this process. Look for updates in upcoming newsletters.

In Christ,
Lana J. Hahn

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RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

Rev. Teddy Vratny, Pastor
Office: 708-562-5590 ext.101
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Lana Hahn, M.A., Principal
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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



October 3 -
9:30 AM - Joshua DuBois

October 10 -
9:30 AM - Mia Railing

October 17 -
9:30 AM - Zachary Redis

October 24 -
9:30 AM - Sebastian Dinkha

October 31 -
9:30 AM - Joshua DuBois