



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.*

Immanuel Informer

September 2023

Volume 19, Issue 3

## Who Owns You?

In Haggai 2:8 we read, *"The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, declares the Lord of hosts."* God owns all things, but, more importantly, He wants to own us. In the New Testament, Jesus tells us that we can't serve two masters. Either we will serve our money or God (Matthew 6:24). However, the real question is not who owns the money but who owns you!

There's a story about a missionary who was talking about the Lord Jesus to the chief of a tribe. The chief tried to impress the missionary with gifts of horses, blankets, and jewelry. But the missionary replied, "My God does not want the chief's horses, blankets, and jewelry. My God wants the chief himself."

The chief smiled and said, "You have a very wise God, for when I give myself to Him, He also gets my horses and blankets and jewelry." Do you understand what that chief understood? If God owns you, then He owns your money and everything else too.

Have you given yourself to Jesus in response to His claim on you? Do you believe that Jesus died on a cross to pay for your sins? Jesus' blood doesn't just pay for sins; it pays for you. It purchases you as God's own possession.

God already has a rightful claim to own all people and all things because He is the Creator and owner of everything. And if you trust that Jesus paid the price of your sins, then God has a double claim to own you. The Lord is your owner both as the Creator who made you and as the Savior who paid to get you back from sin. *"You are not your own; you were bought at a price"* (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a).

If you reject God's claim of ownership and want to be your own person without answering to the Lord, you might think it will bring you more freedom. But it will cause all sorts of worries and problems for you, and, if nothing changes, it will eventually land you totally separated in eternity from God.

However, if you acknowledge God's claim of ownership and if you put yourself and everything you have in His hands, you will be blessed. When God owns you, your problems are His problem. Your cares are His concern. He will guide you and help you flourish in this life and for eternity. The key to financial freedom is realizing that all your money is God's, and the key to spiritual freedom and contentment is knowing that you are not your own but belong to Jesus Christ as His treasured possession.

In the love and Fellowship of Christ,

Pastor Steve

**WE ARE CALLED TO  
LIVE GODLY LIVES THAT  
RECOGNIZE, HONOR,  
PRAISE, AND SHOW OUR  
LOVE FOR GOD.**

“Praise Him for His mighty  
deeds; praise Him according to  
His excellent greatness!”  
(Psalm 150:2).



**STEWARDSHIP IS WHAT  
THE STEWARD DOES AND  
WHAT THE STEWARD  
DOES IS GOVERNED BY  
GOD’S WORD.**

“Moreover, it is required  
of stewards that they be  
found faithful”  
(1 Corinthians 4:2).

God, Who has created all things and sustains all things, has called us to be His instruments through which He shares His grace, love, and mercy with the world. It is amazing that, in spite of our sinful ways, God calls us to participate with Him on His team in sharing the good news of the Gospel. He wants to work with us to bring about His will on earth. God *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4), and He blesses us with the honor and privilege to be in partnership to help others enjoy His kingdom now on earth and to be with Him forever in eternity.

Join us in kicking off our 60th year of Outdoors Ministry

## An Evening Under the Stars

★ SEPT. 16, 2023

**WALCAMP 60**

Bring your lawn chairs or blanket and enjoy an evening under the stars!

- Live music, food, and fellowship throughout the night
- Early arrival activities: 4-5:00 pm archery and hatchet throwing
- Wine-Pull with additional chance for prizes
- NEW! Basket Raffle Tickets 3/\$20
- Caricature artist begins at 4:30pm
- Canoeing, corn hole, and games available by the lake
- Gourmet dinner options: Artisan Cheeseburger, Grilled Chicken Breast, or Grilled Portabella Mushroom
- Water, soda, coffee, and dessert
- You may also bring your own food, beer, or wine

Mark your calendar and join us!  
Tickets are available online  
Tickets \$30/person  
Meals \$15/person

Rejoice with us at our kick-off event celebrating 60 years of Outdoors Ministry. Set up your lawn chairs and share stories with Alumni and friends around the fire pit. Please join us in celebration of God’s blessings and provisions as we look forward to His continued ministry. Come enjoy this adult-only evening at Walcamp!

**WALCAMP** ...into the outdoors

www.WALCAMP.org/STARS  
32653 Five Points Road, Kingston, IL 60145  
815-784-5141

Live Music  
Caricatures

A photograph of a woman with curly hair, wearing a white top, holding a baby in her arms. They are standing in front of a window with greenery outside.

## Caring NETWORK Illinois

### Annual Banquet

10.19.2023  
Drury Lane, Oak Brook

The Caring Network Annual Banquet will be Thursday, October 19th at 6pm at Drury Lane. in Oak Brook. The special guest speaker is Dr. Benjamin Carson. Dr. Carson is Professor Emeritus of Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University, where he directed pediatric neurosurgery for over 25 years. He credits his faith and background in science as the foundation for being a staunch supporter of “the miracle of life.” In June of 2008, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

If you would like to attend, please speak with  
Randy or Michelle Weeks.

# Put Your Hands Together

*A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hillside*

Private & Online Donations: \$2,076  
 Hillside Summer Nights \$349  
 Pending Grant Applications: 5  
 New Grants Written this Month: 1  
 Grant Awards: 0



**PYHT Food**  
**Distributions & Activity:**  
In-Kind Food Donations/  
Food Rescue Received: 14,607  
lbs. (including hard goods)

**PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served:**  
**Saturday** 88/315 Families/ Individuals  
**PYHT-Friday Food Pantry:** 158 Families  
**PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served:**  
 Westchester Food Pantry, St. Paul-Oak Lawn, Downers  
 Grove Soup Kitchen, Elmwood Park Community Church  
 FP, Lyons Church, St. Matthews Soup Kitchen, Quinn  
 Center, BEDS+, Village of Hillside  
**Volunteer Stipends Paid Out:** \$150, \$25 in Gift Cards

**Expansion Project Update:**  
**\$14,848.84** has been spent on the deposits for the concrete and building, so far.  
 We are still waiting on the Village of Hillside to proceed with permits, there are zoning issues that are delaying the project and increased expenses. More time to fundraise is needed. No zoning compromise has been reached to date.

***Please pray for continued guidance  
 and support of our expansion project!***



## **NEWS: Hillside Summer Nights Concert Series**

It was well worth the effort to participate in this event. It was a lot of work to set-up/tear down each week, especially during the heatwaves. Thanks to Tom for delivering and picking up event supplies each week and the other volunteers who helped showcase our church ministries.



**Volunteers of the Month:** Thank you all for being the Heart & Hands of Jesus in this ministry! A special thanks to all of you for helping at the Hillside Summer Nights Concert Series!! Tom & Joanna Czubernat, Trina Bozzi, Carol Northcutt, Ron & Jayne Siou, The Hadlers, Randy Weeks, Corinne Hein, Karen Mulvihill, Alicia Blair and Theresa Thompson and Al from the OSH Community Garden.



August has always been the month of fulfilled expectations, as well as unexpected let downs. This is the month when tomatoes and peppers start ripening and are harvested, the peach blossoms that you watched way back in spring have turned into big, juicy peaches and you're watching the corn for signs of ripeness. While the season's efforts are being rewarded, sometimes the inexplicable happens. This year our corn was the surprise. After a bit of a rough start, the stalks were growing really well, but the ears had a strange flavor that just wasn't right. and we scrapped the whole harvest. oh, well . . . happens to the best of 'em.

All in all, the harvest was plentiful, despite rookie mistakes. We were able to get 733 pounds of fresh food, some of which was given to the congregation, some of which was sold to raise funds for our garden, and most was donated to our food pantry. We have plenty more growing and if the weather holds out, Immanuel's kids will receive little baby pumpkins and there's more tomatoes, sweet peppers, beets and winter squash to be harvested.

This was also the month of the end of Hillside Summer Nights fest. Immanuel, as well PYHT and OSCG were present every Tuesday, getting the word out, passing out freebies, taking donations and making balloon animals. In my humble opinion, we did well for our first time out. Thanks to all the volunteers who showed up and helped us in our weakest moments; at the end of the fest nights and just in time to help clean up. You guys and gals were a great help.

As part of our efforts to grow food year-round, Jayne Siou has applied for a grant to help in expanding our indoor growing efforts. If all goes well and the funding shows up in time, we will be producing approximately 120 salad kits per week, complete with lettuce, tomato, bell peppers and cucumbers. Please keep the garden in your prayers!





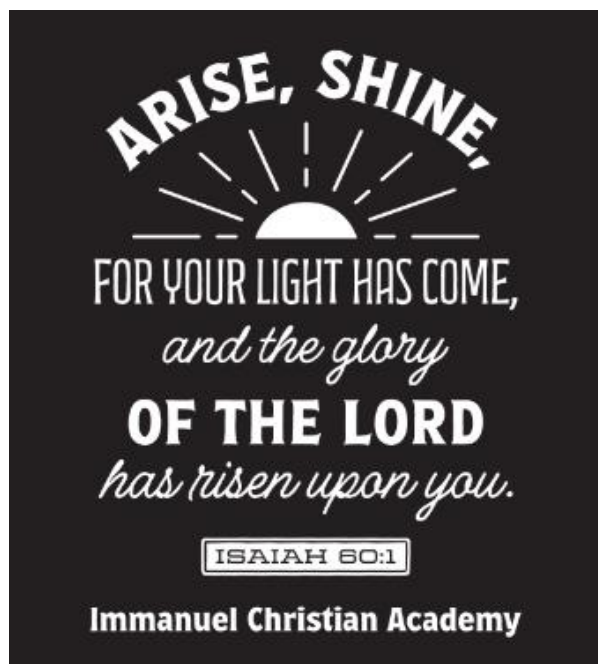
# Rise and Shine

## Valerie Winston

Last year we had an event in May with the theme “Rise and Shine”. It was an open house-type event with the students singing in church and the parents visiting the classrooms after church. During the children’s message I asked the students what they thought “rise and shine” meant. One of them said it meant to “get up and go to work for God”. I liked the response so much that I thought it should become our theme for this school year. And so, it has. The theme for this school year is “Rise and Shine” which is based on Isaiah 60:1 which says, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

Prior to the start of the school year, our teachers certainly embodied the spirit of that student’s words about getting up and going to work for God. They have spent so much time in preparation for this year as they once again responded to their call to the ministry. They have diligently worked on lesson plans, spent time craftily designing and decorating their classrooms, and logged in numerous hours with the copy machine. It is truly amazing to behold the hard work and dedication that goes into the planning and preparation for a new school year. The teachers have been truly getting up and going to work for God and they will continue to do so as the school year has now begun.

Each morning I begin announcements by telling the students to “rise and shine”. Throughout this school year the students will learn of all that God has done and will continue to do for them. They will experience God’s love and care for them as their teachers guide them through those planned and unplanned lessons. They will get to see first-hand what it means to get up and go to work for God as they see His light shine through their teachers. It is our hope and prayer that our students will some day in turn get up and go to work for God as well.



**Raise Right** – Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for their church or school. Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards. You purchase gift cards from your organization at face value, and your coordinator orders those cards from Raise Right Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for Immanuel. It's that simple! Order Forms are in the church hallway or enroll online: <https://www.raiseright.com/shop>

*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 gives. 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.

## **September**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Matthew 5:1-20    | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Matthew 22:15-33      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Matthew 5:21-48   | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Matthew 22:34-46      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Matthew 6:1-15    | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Matthew 25:1-13       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Matthew 6:16-34   | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Matthew 25:14-30      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Matthew 7:1-14    | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Matthew 25:31-46      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Matthew 7:15-29   | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Job 28:1-28           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Matthew 12:1-21   | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Proverbs 1:1-33       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Matthew 12:22-37  | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Proverbs 3:1-35       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Matthew 12:38-50  | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Proverbs 8:1-36       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Matthew 13:1-17  | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Proverbs 9:1-18       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Matthew 13:18-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 1 Corinthians 1:1-17  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Matthew 13:36-58 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Matthew 15:1-20  | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 1 Corinthians 2:1-16  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Matthew 20:1-16  | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 1 Corinthians 3:1-23  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Matthew 22:1-14  | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 1 Corinthians 4:1-21  |

#### **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.

### **A Month of Prayer**

The fellowship of prayer consists of caring people who pray daily for members in the church. Members and their families will be listed in alphabetical order each month. Please pray for both their known and unknown needs. *School Families in italics.*

1. The Mannella Family
2. Len & Susan Mazanek
3. Scott Mazanek
4. *The McKenzie Family*
5. *The Moore Family*
6. Ed & Karen Mulvihill
7. Heidi Murphy
8. *The Muskwe Family*
9. *The Nash Family*
10. Kathy Nelson
11. Lynda Nickl
12. Mike & Carol Northcutt
13. Mindy Ondrovic
14. Phyllis Ondrovic
15. Pena Family
16. Perez Family
17. *The Perry Family*
18. Lynn Rand
19. Susan Redis
20. Gloria Rubietta
21. Joan Rundgren
22. *The Ruff Family*
23. *The Ruffin Family*
24. Karen Sierawski
25. *The Sims Family*
26. *The Sims / Lang Family*
27. Ron & Jayne Siou
28. *The Skinner Family*
29. *The Smith Family*
30. Daniel Stallings

### **For the Record**

#### **Deaths**

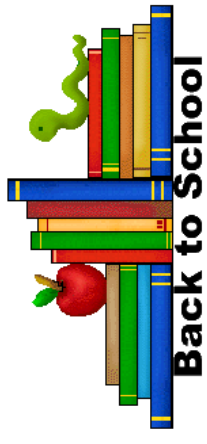
August 19th - Vern Witt



## **September Birthdays**

- |                          |                                     |                                       |                                    |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - Gloria Rubietta      | 4 - Kaleah Davis <i>5th Grade</i>   | 13 - Cary Davis <i>Kindergarten</i>   | 21 - Selena Perez                  |
| 2 - Ruth Anne Brendemuhl | 4 - Zkieris Harris <i>7th Grade</i> | 16 - Blessing Gerard <i>8th Grade</i> | 26 - Clyde Lane                    |
| 3 - Joe Chioda           | 8 - Zariah Thomas <i>3rd Grade</i>  | 17 - Tim Bell                         | 28 - Omie Lane                     |
| 3 - Lapricka Duff        | 9 - Patty Pygman                    | 17 - Lisa Chioda                      | 29 - Joan Rundgren                 |
| 4 - Barbara Brown        | 9 - Grace Hadler                    | 18 - Pastor Steve                     | 26 - Corie Woodruff                |
| 4 - Sheila Railing       | 10 - Maxwell Railing                | 19 - Mindy Ondrovic                   | 29 - Kamryn Perry <i>2nd Grade</i> |
|                          | 13 - Dot Schneider                  | 19 - Arlene Gasperich                 | 30 - Suzie Lepe                    |

# September 2023



**Sun**      **Mon**      **Tue**      **Wed**      **Thu**      **Fri**      **Sat**

					1	2
3 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	4 Labor Day <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	5 4pm - Volleyball Game <b>HOME</b> 5:30pm Day School Commission Meeting	6 - 1:50pm Chapel 3pm Faculty Meeting 6pm Stewardship Mtg 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	7 - 7am - Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting 6pm Elders Meeting	8 4pm Volleyball Game <b>AWAY @ LaGrange</b>	9 9am - Garden Work Day 11am Food Pantry
10 - <b>Christian Education Sunday</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:30am Bible Study	11 8am - Raise Right Scrip Orders Due	12 4pm <b>XC Meet @ Walther</b> 6pm Church Council Meeting	13 - 1:50pm Chapel 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	14 - 7am Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting 4pm Volleyball Game <b>AWAY @ Lombard</b> Back to School Night	15 4pm Volleyball Game <b>HOME</b>	16 @Walcamp An Evening under the Stars
17 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	18 Informer Newsletter submissions due	19 4pm Volleyball Game <b>HOME</b> 6pm PTL Meeting Fellowship Hall	20 - 1:50pm Chapel 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	21 - 7am - Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting 4pm Volleyball Game <b>HOME</b>	22 4pm Volleyball Game <b>AWAY @ Bensenville</b>	23 9am - Garden Work Day
24 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	25 Informer Newsletter submissions due	26 - School Picture Day 4pm Volleyball Game <b>HOME</b>	27 - 1:50pm Chapel 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	28 - 7am - Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting	29 4pm Volleyball Game <b>AWAY @ Burr Ridge</b>	30

2317 - 2329 South Wolf Road  
Hillside, IL 60162

Church phone - 708-562-5590

School phone - 708-562-5580

E-Mail: [general@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:general@immanuel-hillside.org)

[www.immanuel-hillside.org](http://www.immanuel-hillside.org)

**RETURN REQUESTED**

**POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL**

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Rev. Steve Deombeleg, Pastor

[ilcpastor@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:ilcpastor@immanuel-hillside.org)

708-562-5590 ext. 101 Cell: 847-714-6080

Deatrice Honey, Administration Assistant

[general@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:general@immanuel-hillside.org)

708-562-5580 ext. 200

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music

[dhempel@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:dhempel@immanuel-hillside.org)

Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 205

Home: 708-442-1505

Valerie Winston, Principal

[vwinston@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:vwinston@immanuel-hillside.org)

708-562-5580 ext. 201

[www.icaillside.org](http://www.icaillside.org)



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