

A Good Way to Begin the New Year

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Here we are once again entering another new year. How time flies. Thanks be to God for seeing us through 2018 and giving us another year filled with both blessings & challenges.

I have on my cell phone an app called WAZE. It helps me and millions of other drivers navigate the roads with real-time traffic information. WAZE is helpful for my daily commute because it prepares me for what lies ahead. In the event of a delay on the highway WAZE can offer an alternate route to keep me moving toward my destination. WAZE is also an acronym for the follower of Jesus as he or she travels through this life on their way to their true home in heaven. Let's take a look.

W—"Will" As I drive down the highway, as much as I would like, I can't control the traffic. My driving habits influence it to some extent e.g., maintaining the speed limit, respecting other drivers, being aware, etc., but I can't control it. Likewise, I can't control God through manipulation. We pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done." We're saying that our lives are in God's hands whatever the outcome—we are trusting Him for all things—especially when faced with delays, disappointments, and crisis.

A—"Always" By faith in Christ, our relationship with God has been restored. We come to our Father in prayer knowing that He hears us and will answer us according to His will. In this restored relationship God relates to us like a Father to His children. Therefore, we can *always* come to Him in prayer. The Psalmist says, "*Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me*" (Ps 50:15). The apostle Paul says to, "*Pray without ceasing*" (1 Th 5:17). "*Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near*" (Is 55:6).

Z—"Zero-in" WAZE keeps me moving in the right direction because it zeroes-in on my exact location in real-time. Likewise, we need to be zeroed-in on where we are in our walk with God. God provides the resources needed to maintain our position (our relationship) with Him. To keep us on course God provides a place of worship—the Church—where He delivers His gifts of Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith—His means of grace. Being in Church helps us to also zero-in on each other by praying for one another, bearing one another's burdens, and serving one another in love. This is the body of Christ.

E—"Empty" When your gas gauge nears the "Empty" mark, WAZE can help by pointing you to the nearest gas station. Although nearing empty on your gas gauge is not advisable, as followers of Jesus emptying ourselves of things that hinder our relationship with God is a good thing. Too often our lives are so cluttered with the things of the world that there is little time for devotion to God. John the Baptist said of Jesus, "*He must increase, but I must decrease*" (Jn 3:30). John prepared the way for Jesus and now his ministry was now complete. This was a great sign of humility.

Begin this new year by asking yourself some questions for personal reflection:

1. Is God in control of my life? Do I really believe the words "Thy will be done" when I pray?
2. How is my prayer life? Do I always seek God in every situation of my life?
3. Am I in Church on a regular basis receiving the good gifts from God that keep me zeroed-in on my relationship with Him?
4. Is my life so cluttered with the things of the world that my relationship with God is at risk?

May these words inspire your walk with the Lord you as you begin 2019. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Pastor Steve



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas poinsettia purchase. We hope you or the recipient of your plant enjoys it for many weeks. Long after the other decorations are put away, it will continue to be a living reminder of the celebration of our Savior's birth. - *The Altar Guild*

March for Life Chicago

Join area Lutherans at the March for LifeChicago on January 13, 2019. LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison is among the featured speakers. Meet on Federal Plaza (50 W. Adams Street, Chicago) at 1:55 p.m. under the LOVE AFFIRMS LIFE and the EYES FOR LIFE banners. Ride a bus leaving from Trinity Lutheran Church, 1101 Kimberly Way, Lisle, at 1 p.m. FREE WILL DONATIONS are received to cover cost for the round-trip bus ride. Contact Kris Blackwell at 630-234-1491 or email kbwrk123@gmail.com to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

Bronco Benefit Dinner – January 26, 2019

You can support Walther Christian Academy students by attending the annual Bronco Benefit Dinner on Saturday, January 26th at Elmcrest Banquets in Elmwood Park. Find more information and purchase tickets at Walther.com/dinner. Can't attend? You can help raise much needed scholarships funds by being an event sponsor, placing an ad in the program book or donating an item for the silent auction. Popular items include gift certificates, tickets and vacation home stays. Items and program ads need to be received by January 7th. For assistance, contact Catherine_Hegarty@walther.com.

Walther Christian High School Placement Test

Special Visit Day and Testing on January 25th

Starting at 8:00 a.m., prospective students will have the opportunity learn about Walther Christian Academy, meet the faculty and staff, go through a typical class schedule and take the placement test. To register, visit Walther.com/test.

The Thrivent Choice® program encourages benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Members make their recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches. Many members of Immanuel have qualifying Thrivent accounts. Depending on the type of account, the amount directed ranges between \$25 and \$5,000. If members do not pick a charity, Thrivent directs the money. If you have a qualifying Thrivent account, please consider directing funds to Immanuel! Call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" or visit <http://bit.ly/XJrPZN>.

Relentless is a two day conference happening on April 5 and 6, 2019 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 405 Rush, Roselle. The conference is geared towards Junior High and High School students (6-12th grade). Relentless is a two day conference happening on April 5 and 6, 2019 at Trinity Luther Church, 405 Rush, Roselle. The conference is geared towards Junior High and High School students (6-12th grade). Bryan Drake and Painting Freedom will be our featured acts! Tickets are \$50.00 per person and include all meals on Saturday, all three worship sessions, an overnight stay, after hours party, class sessions, a service project and a Saturday night praise and worship concert with our house band and our featured acts. For more information visit www.gatheringtrinityroselle.com.

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35) and “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins,[a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for me.”

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God’s son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

Jesus called His disciples, and they followed. Peter, James, John, and Andrew left their fishing businesses to follow Jesus. Levi Matthew, who was a tax collector, left his tax business. They followed Jesus into traveling missionary work which required them to leave their livelihood and major possessions behind. What a sacrifice to turn backs on equipment and businesses that had provided for their living as well as their families! The powerful words of Jesus compelled these men to follow Him. God’s grace and love prompt us also to follow and serve Him.

THE GOSPEL PRODUCES FAITH & GOOD WORKS.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”

Ephesians 2:10

Luke 2:21 – “And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” There it is: the shortest Gospel lesson of the whole Church Year. It is for the festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. What more do you need to know than the Name of Jesus? The Lord saves. That’s who Jesus is: the Lord who saves us sinners. That simple Gospel message is the foundation of our faith and the strength to live out our faith in action.



I Can...Accept

by Valerie Winston

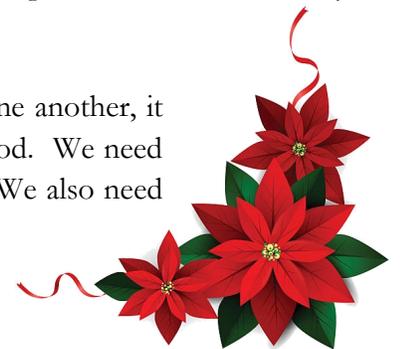
Children try hard to be accepted. They want to be accepted and loved by their parents, by their friends, and even by their teachers. They don't always respond well to criticism and sometimes focus more on their faults and shortcomings than they do on their best attributes. This is especially true if they don't receive positive affirmations from those around them.

Adults can be very much like children when it comes to their relationships to those around them. We want acceptance from our friends and family and even from our employers. We seek affirmation for the things that we do and for the people that we are. We especially want this acceptance without us having to change in any way.

But while we delight in this affirmation, or acceptance from others, only God is able to love us unconditionally, all of the time. We are loved, with all our faults and with all our sin. God loved us so much that He gave His only Son for us.

Romans 15:7 says, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. God calls on us to see others through His eyes. He calls us to accept others the way that He does. We are to accept everyone as dearly loved children of God who are created in His own image. God loves us as we are. He challenges us to live a life worthy of our calling.

Accepting each other and loving each other, in spite of our faults, will not only benefit one another, it will bring praise to God. When we, as Christians, care for one another we give glory to God. We need to seek and ask God's guidance to give us eyes see one another as His precious children. We also need His help to give us the heart to treat one another as His children.



When you use scrip gift cards at your favorite retailers, you're fundraising while you shop. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers more than 700 of the country's biggest retailers, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement, and more. Just by using scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily raise \$500 or more per year. It's time to put your shopping dollars to work! <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login/Enroll>

Immanuel Christian Academy News

NO SCHOOL JANUARY 1-6 - CHRISTMAS BREAK

January 7th - Classes Resume and Re-Enrollment begins

NO SCHOOL MONDAY, JANUARY 21ST

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Lutheran Schools Week

**OPEN
HOUSE**

JANUARY 27TH

Join us for our Lutheran Schools Week Service & Open House!
The Day School Choir will sing during church and all are invited to join us for fellowship and classroom visits.

Current families can re-enroll and new families can learn more about Immanuel Christian Academy and pick up or drop off enrollment packets. Please spread the word!

9:30am - Worship Service

10:30am - Special Coffee Hour and Breakfast

11:30am - 1:00pm - Classroom visits, meet the staff and pick up /drop off enrollment paperwork

Important Dates:

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 7 - Classes Resume
- 9 - Faculty Meeting
- 11 - Adult Volleyball
- 13 - GLS Orders Due
- 15 - PTL Meeting
- 21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
- 22 - Walcamp trip begins
- 25 - Students return from Walcamp
Adult Volleyball
- 27 - Lutheran School's Week Begins
Special Coffee Hour & Open House

MONTHLY EVENTS - (unless otherwise noted)

- Faculty Meeting - 1st Wednesday of each month 3pm
- PTL Meeting - 1st Tuesday of each month 6:00pm
- Adult Bible Study on Sundays 8:15am Sept. - June
- Darts Tuesdays at 7:30 PM - See Calendar
- Adult Choir Rehearsals Wed. Sept. - May at 7:30PM
- Adult Volleyball - Fridays check calendar for dates

January Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Roger Brabant | 20 - Dorothy Westphal |
| 10 - Dennis Ondrovic | 22 - Michelle Weeks |
| 10 - Brett Willis | 23 - Hannah Bramos |
| 12 - Toni Mooney | 25 - Jennifer Bettin |
| 13 - Steve Hardy | 28 - Randy Weeks |
| 15 - Marisa Perez | 30 - Bob Westphal |
| 19 - Lois Boese | |

FOR THE RECORD

**Baptism - Lapricka Duff & Jayla Pernell
December 16**



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.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Genesis 1:1-13 | 19 Job 38:16-33 |
| 2 Genesis 1:14-2:4 | 20 Job 38:34-41 |
| 3 Isaiah 40:21-31 | |
| 4 Romans 8:18-30 | 21 John 17:1-26 |
| 5 Hebrews 9:1-10 | 22 Job 39:19-40:5 |
| Epiphany | 23 Jeremiah 1:1-10 |
| 6 Matthew 2:1-12 | 24 Jeremiah 51:15-19 |
| | 25 Haggai 1:1-11 |
| 7 Revelation 22:1-21 | 26 Haggai 1:12-2:9 |
| 8 Genesis 11:1-9 | 27 Psalm 148 |
| 9 Genesis 21:9-21 | |
| 10 Genesis 24:1-21 | 28 Luke 6:37-42 |
| 11 Genesis 24:22-31 | 29 Psalm 104 |
| 12 Genesis 24:32-53 | 30 1 Peter 1:3-12 |
| 13 Genesis 24:54-67 | 31 Isaiah 24:1-22 |
| 14 John 8:48-59 | |
| 15 2 Samuel 22:1-16 | |
| 16 2 Samuel 22:17-35 | |
| 17 2 Samuel 22:36-51 | |
| 18 Job 38:1-15 | |



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.

Happy
NEW YEAR

MAY HE GIVE YOU THE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART
AND MAKE ALL YOUR PLANS SUCCEED.
PSALM 20:4

**Happy
New Year!**

January 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 - New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
NO SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK						
6 - Epiphany 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee	7 - Classes Resume Re- Enrollment Begins for 2019 - 2020 School Year	8 3pm - Math Club 6pm - PTL Meeting	9 3pm - Faculty Meeting 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	10	11 7pm - Adult Volleyball	12
13 GLS Orders Due 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee	14	15	16 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	17 - 6pm - PTL Potluck and Awards Dinner	18	19
20 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL	22 -	23	24	25 7pm - Adult Volleyball	26
5th & 6th Grade Walcamp Trip						
27 - 8:15am Bible Study / 9:30am Worship / Day School Sings 10:30am Special Coffee 11:30am - 1pm Open House	28	29	30 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	31		
Lutheran Schools Week						

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. Steve Deombeleg, Pastor
ilcpastor@immanuel-hillside.org
708-562-5590 ext. 101 Cell: 847-714-6080

Deatrice, Honey, Administrative Assistant
general@immanuel-hillside.org
708-562-5580 ext. 200
www.icahillside.org

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music
dhempel@immanuel-hillside.org
Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 205
Home: 708-442-1505

Valerie Winston, Principal
vwinston@immanuel-hillside.org
708-562-5580 ext. 201

January Greeters:

January 6 - Philbert Wilcox Jr.

January 13 - Open

January 20 - Rita Stallings

January 27 - Julie Hadler



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 your prayers.
We want to rejoice with you
and thank the Lord.**