



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

August 2023

Volume 19, Issue 2

Back to School

The month of August is the time to return to school. Miss Winston and staff are gearing up for another exciting year of doing what they do best with the gifts God has given them. Immanuel's school outreach ministry will begin August 22nd. I am happy to hear enrollment is picking up for this coming school year—God is good! We praise Him for the fine work he is accomplishing through our school staff. They are gifted people with a passion for teaching academics and the Christian faith and we are grateful for their dedication as ministers in God's Kingdom. Be sure to keep our staff, students, and their families in your prayers throughout the school year.

Immanuel Christian Academy is a training ground to prepare children for the many challenges and blessings life has to offer. Likewise, the church is our training ground to prepare us spiritually for the same. As the children are always in learning mode at school, we too must have the same mindset; being eager to learn more and more about Christ our Lord. The Apostle Paul said it well in Colossians 3:16-17, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

I realize that for some, regular, daily devotion to the Word of God can be a challenge but it is God's desire for you. I encourage you to begin with the Daily Bible Reading Guide on page 6 of this newsletter or with Portals of Prayer. Take one from the information table in the Narthex. Allow God to speak to you with His Word. Use the prayers included to speak to God and may your hunger for God's Word increase daily.

I leave you with these important words from Jesus, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5).

Each one of us is ever-learning. We look to God and His Word to lead us, teach us, and make known His ways so that we may know His truth and find true peace and comfort.

In the love and fellowship of Christ,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

Stewardship Is a Free and Joyous Activity

Many Christians misunderstand stewardship because they have an incorrect perspective of it as relating only to financial issues. Stewardship includes, but is much more than, managing or giving money. Stewardship is a spiritual issue. It has to do with God's relationship to us in Christ and how we live out that relationship. It is about our hearts. The Stewardship Department of the LCMS defines stewardship as "the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."

Stewardship is faith in action. It is acknowledging that all that we are and have are gifts from God, and we, as God's stewards, express our gratitude for Who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus by living lives that seek to do His will and to give Him all the honor and praise that He deserves. In Revelation 4:11 we read, "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created."

At the heart of being a Christian is being a steward. Because they are bound together, we can't talk about being a Christian without talking about being a steward. A Christian steward is a child of God who realizes that his/her role is to take care of his/her gifts from God. As stewards, we receive God's precious gifts thankfully, manage His gifts carefully and responsibly, and share them generously with others. God calls us to be stewards of His creation, relationships, time, abilities, and money. Being a faithful steward adds meaning and purpose for our lives. May God help us all be the stewards that He wants us to be.

Stewardship Commission Workshop August 13 & 20 at 11:15am Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age

Evangelism has changed in the past 25 years. Technology and rapid cultural shifts, including the impact of social media, have redefined the ways we communicate. *Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age* focuses on this shifting definition of evangelism and the perceptions of faith sharing from both sides of the conversation: the sharer and the hearer. Through this research, church leaders can coach Christians to be effective in sharing the unchanging Good News in the digital age., success inevitable."



EVERYTHING WE ARE AND EVERYTHING WE DO AS STEWARDS ARE THE RESULT OF GOD'S GRACE IN CHRIST.

"Through Him, we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2).

Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hillside

Private & Online Donations: \$ 595.50

Expansion Project Fund, to date: \$3340.00

Pending Grant Applications: (8)

New Grants Written this Month: 0

Grant Awards: 0

PYHT Food Distributions & Activity

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Received:

46,246 lbs. (including hard goods)

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served:

Saturday 87/334 Families/ Individuals

PYHT-Friday Food Pantry: 115/295 Families/ Individuals

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, Concordia University Pantry.

Volunteer Stipends Paid Out: \$300, \$25 in Gift Cards

NEWS

Increased food need for Refugees: Our Friday distribution is experiencing an increase in the number of families looking for food support. Additional volunteer help is needed for the weekdays and distribution. Preparing an additional 50-60 food boxes a week is time consuming and laborious, especially in the heat. The purchase of extra paper and plastic bags alone is draining our resources.

Hillside Public Library Support: Food & Fund Drive collections will continue throughout the Summer, Food Drive Began on June 12th. We have collected close to 300 lbs. so far.

Volunteers of the Month: Welcome and Thank you to Becky Lelings for joining us on Saturdays! Thank you to Ron Siou, for picking up random, last-minute donations, 190 miles of driving this month. Thank you to Donn & Lyn Hempel for shopping sales and donating their time, talents, and treasures to this growing ministry. All our volunteers are servants to Christ, I thank God for you all every day!

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!

CALL FOR OFFICIAL PYHT BOARD MEMBERS

Put your hands together is asking you to come forward to represent PYHT in the official positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Please contact Jayne, for more info.



THE PANTRY IS EXPANDING! VISIT
WWW.IMMANUEL-HILLSIDE.ORG/PYHT
 TO LEARN MORE

FOOD PANTRY

2nd Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m.
 No one turned away while supplies last.

Aug. 12, Sept. 9 & Oct. 14

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 2317 S. Wolf Rd. Hillside, IL
 #PutYourHandsTogether



Old Schoolhouse Garden update for July

July is a time of maintenance in the garden. We've spent a lot of time training tomato plants onto their trellis' and pruning them to maximize fruit production and quality. Plants have been ferti-

lized at their roots but continue to need supplemental minerals applied to their leaves (called foliar feeding) to prevent disease, as well as fungal and insect damage. Fruit affected by insects are picked and discarded.



The efforts aren't always successful. Some plants, such as apple trees, are particularly susceptible to insect damage, while others, such as tomatoes and peppers, are susceptible to mineral deficiencies. For the most part, this year seems to be turning out quite well. Our corn was "knee high by the 4th of July" and is currently producing ears, as well as "Huitlacoche", which is a mushroom that grows on the ears.

Also known as "corn smut", it doesn't affect the ear and is considered a delicacy in some parts of the world. Our Zucchini and Yellow Squash have been

producing many fruit and the nectar is soooo good, that a single flower will have four to six bees drinking the nectar at the same time.



While we've been able to harvest a good amount of food so far in 2023, July is mostly a time for patience. The tomatoes are growing. The corn is growing. The peppers are growing . . . but there's very little ripening. Right about the end of the month is when you see the garden groups on social media getting all of the "why is my stuff not ripening" questions. Growing food is definitely not an instant gratification type of activity. All in good time. All on God's schedule.

Some of this years harvest has been diverted towards sustaining the garden project. While we would love to donate all of our produce, we are also working on growing as an organization. We recognize that inflation is hitting many people, not just the ones who go to our food pantry and by selling some of our fresh produce, we help people access our produce at a reasonable price. In turn, those people help us cover our costs. You can come see us at the Hillside Summer Nights every Tuesday night till August 22nd, 2023.





BE STILL

VALERIE WINSTON

Patience has never been a true virtue of mine. I have my moments with it when I can sit still and read or when I'm dealing with students. But it disappears when I want certain things to happen and I want them to happen sooner, rather than later. I also struggle if I am told I will just have to wait. But this past year God has truly been teaching me that meaning of that word. The first part of Psalm 46:10 has been constantly running through my head for many months now. It says, "Be still and know that I am God." It has been a reminder that God is truly the one in control.

This past year has truly been a test of my patience. For a while it just seemed like there were so many questions and issues, but no answers or solutions were forthcoming. Prior to my cancer diagnosis there were several tests that had to be done to come up with a diagnosis. After the diagnosis there were more tests, procedures, and a host of doctors' appointments. There were questions and no answers. This seemed to continue for months before a plan of action was determined. There was waiting, waiting, and more waiting.

At one point, while waiting in an exam room I noticed the computer had a continual slideshow going. All the slides were Bible verses. At each appointment thereafter, whether it was at a hospital or the cancer institute, I would watch the slideshows and read the verses. At one hospital there are Bible verses on the walls and at one procedure there was a prayer said over the loudspeaker. I took that as a message that God was loudly speaking to me. And while there were still some difficult days thereafter, I remembered that He is the Great Physician, that He is in control and that He is God. I needed to learn to just "be still".

I was blessed to learn that after my second surgery that all the cancer was removed. I was further blessed when I learned that I didn't need chemo or radiation. I am also blessed to have such a wonderful Immanuel family who has supported me so much in the past year. Your prayers, love, caring, donations, and contributions have truly been a comfort to me. I am so appreciative and grateful to have you in my corner and in my life.

Even though I have gotten better, I know that "being still" is going to continue to be a work in progress for me, especially when it comes to being a principal and teacher. But I know that God is infinitely patient and will continue to be with me and teach me to "Be still and know that He is God".

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.

August

- 1 Isaiah 40:1-17
- 2 Isaiah 40:18-31
- 3 Isaiah 43:1-13
- 4 Isaiah 44:1-20
- 5 Isaiah 51:1-16
- 6 Isaiah 52:1-12
- 7 Philippians 1:1-30
- 8 Philippians 2:1-30
- 9 Philippians 3:1-21
- 10 Philippians 4:1-23
- 11 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- 12 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16
- 13 1 Thessalonians 2:17—3:13
- 14 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
- 15 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28
- 16 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
- 17 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17
- 18 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
- 19 1 Timothy 1:1-20
- 20 1 Timothy 2:1-15
- 21 1 Timothy 3:1-16
- 22 1 Timothy 4:1-16
- 23 1 Timothy 5:1-25
- 24 1 Timothy 6:1-21
- 25 2 Timothy 1:1-18
- 26 2 Timothy 2:1-26
- 27 2 Timothy 3:1-17
- 28 2 Timothy 4:1-22
- 29 Titus 1:1-16
- 30 Titus 2:1-15
- 31 Titus 3:1-15

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.

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.

1. Bell Family
2. Jennifer Bettin
3. Jeffrey Bettin
4. Karen Bimler
5. Blair Family
6. Bozzi Family
7. Ruth Anne Brendemuhl
8. Bob Brown
9. Doretha Brown & Rashaad Smith
10. Joe & Lisa Chioda
11. Detrall Dearbone
12. The Deombeleg Family
13. Laprika Duff & Jayla Pernel
14. Arlene Gasperich
15. Lisa Gasperich
16. Stella Gonzalez
17. The Hadler Family
18. Steve Hadler
19. Steve & Lucretia Hardy
20. Evelyn Haynes
21. Corinne Hein
22. The Hempel Family
23. The Honey Family
24. Violet Horn
25. Sandra Houle
26. The Iacovetti Family
27. Dorothy Ivers
28. The Karpierz Family
29. Clyde & Omie Lane
30. Becky Lelingis
31. The Lepe Family

For the Record
Baptism - July 23 - Mia Kapairz



August Birthdays

- 5 - Jayla Pernel
- 6 - Paris Thomas
- 8 - Dave Svec
- 12 - Tom Sierawski
- 16 - Rashaad Smith
- 21 - Lynn Rand
- 23 - Mike Northcutt
- 25 - Debbie Valentino
- 26 - Ron Arndt
- 28 - Johnny Welch
- 31 - Tracy Bell

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 9:30 am Worship with HC 10:30am Fellowship	7	1 School Registration Begins	2	3	4	5
13 9:30 am Worship with HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Stewardship Workshop	14	8 Faculty Meeting 9am	9 Back to School Worship at St. Peter Arlington Heights	10 Pastor returns from vacation	11	12 9am Garden Work Day 11am Food Distribution
20 9:30 am Worship with HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Stewardship Workshop School Supply Drop off	21	15 1st Day of School	16 Parent Information Meeting	17 Parent Information Meeting	18	19
27	28	22	23	24	25	26 9am Garden Work Day
		29	30	31		

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Church phone - 708-562-5590

School phone - 708-562-5580

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RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

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