

IN YOUR FACE

Blessings to all in Jesus' Name,

February is a busy month. It's Black History Month. The Super Bowl is a big event. Valentine's Day is huge. We have a Voter's Meeting. Ash Wednesday is on the 26th. These things will be "In Your Face" throughout the month of February. In this and future articles, I will focus on what we invested so much time developing last year—our Vision Statement. In order for our Vision Statement to be realized it has to be "In Your Face," otherwise, "out of sight, out of mind."

We put a lot of work into developing our statement; it took hours of discussion and prayer. We were forced to look in the mirror and face the truth. We asked and answered some tough questions. After the dust settled, we showcased our Vision for Immanuel. The outcome was a short statement that spoke volumes—"Glorifying God by Impacting our Community." Though the statement is short, it is powerful. Two verbs say it all—"Glorify" and "Impacting." Impact means "to press closely or firmly into something." Glorify means to exalt, magnify, illuminate, honor, and elevate. These are words of action. Our God is a God of action. During the process Keith Haney said that the church must be a "missional church." What does that mean? I'm glad you asked. Rev. Haney said that a missional church "seeks to understand the people we are called to reach. Go to the people, don't wait for them to come to you."

The first subpoint under our vision statement describes how we will do that—"through spiritual support services." God answered our prayer. Recently a small group from Immanuel joined Voice of Care, a ministry of the LCMS that helps equip the Church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers. These facilities are right in our backyard. With VOC we are able to press closely into the world of the forgotten, the silent, and the lonely. This is how we become a "missional church"—we *go* to others. But we are just beginning and need more members to come on board and glorify God. I ask you to prayerfully consider serving in this ministry of mercy. A Respite Companion Training class will take place here at Immanuel on Saturday February 8 (*more information in the narthex*).

Let's keep God's Vision for Immanuel front and center. Put the Vision Statement "In Your Face" as a reminder of why God has placed us here and at this time. Copies of the Vision Statement can be found in the narthex.

In the Fellowship and Love of Christ,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others,

BABY BOTTLES ARE BACK

Coins for Caring Network is a simple and effective way for our church to raise awareness of Caring Network's ministry and at the same time raise needed funds. Members can take baby bottles home and be a part of this life-saving work by simply filling them with spare change. Bottles are located in the Narthex. Please pick up yours today. Return your filled bottle by February 23rd.



RESPITE COMPANION TRAINING

Are you looking for practical ways to implement your faith? Would you like to help a caregiver who needs a break, but are unsure how? Is your time limited? Voice of Care can help you with all this. We are offering a certified volunteer Respite Companion Training class on February 8th 2020, from 8:30 to 5:00 at Immanuel Lutheran Church 2317 S Wolf Rd in Hillside, IL. This training allows you to step in when needed but also can be flexible to your schedule. It gives the foundation of care and blessings for others, and you will be blessed as well. Who is to say you won't be using these skills in your own family situation? For more information about the class contact Director Ministry Facilitators, Dennis Pieper, (708) 759-4954 or dennispieper@voiceofcare.org.

Walther Bronco Benefit Dinner

The 4th annual Bronco Benefit Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Elmcrest Banquets. The goal of this event is to remove finances as a barrier for students and families wanting a Christian education at Walther. More than 75% of families qualify for need based tuition assistance. Your support of this event helps us meet this need. For sponsorship opportunities, to reserve an ad space in the program, or to donate an item for the auction, please contact dinner@walther.com.

FLOWER FUND

February offering envelopes include one for the "Flower Fund. Contributing any amount to the Fund will allow more fresh flower arrangements on Sundays throughout the year. Cash or checks are welcome and checks should be payable to *Immanuel Altar Guild*. Your donation will be credited on your church contributions statement. As a "thank you" you are welcome to take a bouquet any time the flowers are identified as being purchased with Flower Fund contributions.

FEBRUARY 9TH

**ALTAR GUILD MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP. WE WILL MEET
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

We Are God's Partners

As Christian stewards, we are not to be under any illusion about our position. We are managers, not owners. We are stewards and not masters. As stewards, we are called to manage our lives and resources in ways that help further God's mission to seek and save the lost.

Christian stewardship is a partnership with God. Both the partnership and God's Work are described in 2 Corinthians 5:18-20: "*All this is from God, Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*"

This partnership is not equal, since the mission and all of the resources have come from God and belong to Him. It is a partnership that God created. He chose and appointed us to be part of His partnership. The object of all stewardship activity is to use the resources that God has placed in our hands in such a way that people come to know and trust in the only true God. In this partnership, God has given us positions of honor, and He equips us with the tools that we need to do His work. He promises to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). May God bless each one of us as we manage faithfully all that God entrusts to us.

Stewardship education is not provided so churches can "pay the bills." The goal is to help members grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the money God has entrusted to them. Jesus said, "*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money*" (Matthew 6:24). Jesus also said, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:21). As God's people give more of their money to support the Lord's work, they will grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Ordinary People Doing the Extraordinary

Scripture is full of instances where God has used ordinary people like us to accomplish extraordinary things. He chose a stammering Moses to lead His people out of bondage, self-serving fishermen, James and John, to lead His Church and spread the Gospel, impulsive Peter's confession upon which to build His Church, and Paul, who spoke of a thorn in his flesh, to be the first great missionary of the Christian Church. God uses imperfect people, those whom the world considers weak and flawed, to extend His kingdom. When we allow ourselves to be used by God in whatever way He chooses, He takes our meager talents and blesses them.

OUR PURPOSE IS TO GIVE GOD GLORY, TO POINT PEOPLE TO HIM SO THAT THEY CAN KNOW HIM, TOO.

"You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8b).



We are in need of coffee hour volunteers! If you can not host a Sunday or serve, please drop off a coffee cake that we can freeze for future use. Thank you!

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. Harold Zedler
2. Annetta Zimmerman
3. Ron & Barb Arndt
4. Susan Arnold
5. Taylor Balslew
6. Carolyn Barry
7. Len Bartels
8. Evelyn Becker
9. The Bell Family
10. The Bettin Family
11. Karen Bimler
12. The Blair Family
13. Bud & Lois Boese
14. Elaine Boettcher
15. The Bozzi Family
16. Roger Brabant
17. Ruth Anne Brendemuhl
18. Bob & Barbara Brown
19. The Brown Family
20. Joe & Lisa Chioda
21. The Czubernat Family
22. Detrall Dearbone
23. The Deombeleg Family
24. The Duff Family
25. Dorothy Francis
26. Arlene Gasperich
27. The Hadler Family
28. Steve & Lucretia Hardy
29. Evelyn Haynes



EYES ON JESUS

O COME, LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE FOUNDER AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH, WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.

When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases, people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, *Eyes on Jesus* is based on Passion according to St. Mark. We will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him—and how we should view Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.

On Ash Wednesday, we will see how, in spite of Jesus’ repeated predictions about His upcoming Passion, the disciples with “Misjudging Eyes” fail to recognize that soon He will not be with them, and they cannot see the anonymous woman’s anointing of Jesus as preparation for His burial. But Jesus sees her actions as a beautiful deed that will be proclaimed throughout the world wherever the Gospel is heard.

rest

RESPITE EDUCATION & SUPPORT TOOLS

for Lutheran
Congregations

\$5

suggested
donation to
Voice of Care
Lunch provided by Thrivent
Manuel provided by LWML NID
grant

**Saturday February 8, 2020
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
2317 S Wolf Rd, Hillside, IL 60162**

*Receive the education, support and training
needed to provide respite care to adults and
children in your church and community.*

Contact Dennis Pieper,
Director of Ministry Facilitator
to reserve your place at (708) 759-4954 or
dennispieper@voiceofcare.org



Important Dates:

- 4 Day School Meeting
- Dartball
- 6 Spring Pictures
- 7 Volleyball
- 8 Voice of Care Training
- 9 Scrip Orders Due
- 11 Math Club
- Dartball
- 13 No School
- 14 No School
- 17 No School
- 18 Church Council
- Dartball
- 21 Volleyball
- 23 Voters Meeting
- 26 Ash Wednesday
- 28 Black History Month School Program

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
- Women's Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:00am
- Men's Bible Study Wednesdays at 4:30pm
- Darts Tuesdays at 7:30 PM - See Calendar
- Adult Choir Rehearsals Wed. Sept. - May at 7:30PM
- Adult Volleyball - Fridays check calendar for dates
- Zumba - Saturdays at 10am



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - Donn Hempel | 17 - Evelyn Haynes |
| 1 - Jeffrey Bettin | 21 - Emily Bramos |
| 4 - Joanna Czubernat | 24 - Carolyn Barry |
| 10 - Barb Arndt | 25 - Braydon Thomas |

FOR THE RECORD
Nothing to Report



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.

February

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | 15 1 John 1:1-10 |
| 2 Psalm 36 | 16 1 John 2:1-17 |
| 3 Psalm 37:1-22 | 17 1 John 2:18-29 |
| 4 Psalm 37:23-40 | 18 1 John 3:1-10 |
| 5 Psalm 40:1-17 | 19 1 John 3:11-24 |
| 6 Psalm 91 | 20 1 John 4:7-21 |
| 7 Psalm 121 | 21 1 John 5:1-12 |
| 8 Psalm 130 | 22 1 John 5:13-21 |
| 9 Psalm 146 | 23 2 John |
| 10 Psalm 46 | 24 3 John |
| 11 Psalm 3 | 25 Psalm 51 |
| 12 Psalm 77 | Ash Wednesday |
| 13 Psalm 125 | 26 Psalm 63 |
| 14 Psalm 132 | 27 Psalm 136 |
| | 28 Deuteronomy 6:1-9 |

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 new garden season begins soon. Stay tuned for Community Garden applications and updates.



IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

A Vision of His Love

by Valerie J. Winston

Jesus was once asked what the greatest commandment was. He ultimately gave two commandments. The first and greatest, he said, was that we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. But then Jesus added a second one that was like the first. That command was to love our neighbor as ourselves.

So, it is not enough to just love God, but we must love others as well. We love God by worshipping Him and obeying His Word. We love others by serving them and seeking their well-being.

We are all very aware of the world in which we live. Our society seems to be filled with more hatred than love. But if we focus on Jesus and look to His example, we will see that He gives us a vision of what love should look like and be like.

The society in Jesus time was a difficult one in which to live as well. Jesus did not have an easy ministry. There were those who continually plotted and planned against Him and there were those who turned Him away. There were also those who tried to lead others astray. But Jesus persevered. He loved those who turned against Him and tried to serve those who didn't want to be served. As He persevered, so too must we.

Jesus was the ultimate vision of love. John 3:16 tells us just how much God loved and loves us. Jesus stretched out His arms on a cross to show us how much He loves us. The love God calls us to embrace is a choice, a faith choice. Faith filled with love turns mere action into life-changing action. We focus on God's will and not our own. That is God's vision of love for us.

The Holy Spirit enables us to embrace a life of real love. We need God to help us love. This is done through a real relationship with God through Jesus. Love sees the big picture, the true vision. God loves us as we are and sees in us what we can't see in ourselves. That is the vision we need to have of others. We love because He first loved us.

Save These Dates in March

Walther's Winter Concert - March 1

Immanuel's Bowl-A-Rama at Eden Lanes - March 8th

Walther's Trivia Night - March 13th

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK MARCH 16th - 22nd

OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS

**Immanuel's Lutheran Schools Week Celebration Service & Open House -
March 22th**

February 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	
HC - Holy Communion WBS - Women's Bible Study MBS - Men's Bible Study ICA - Emmanuel Christian Academy OSHCG - Old Schoolhouse Community Garden						
2 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee Hour	3 4 5pm - Day School Commission Meeting 7pm Dartball	5 8:15 Chapel 10am WBS 3pm - Faculty Meeting 4:30pm - MBS 7:30pm Adult Choir	6 School Spring & Graduation Picture Day	7		8 8:30am Voice of Care Respite Training 10am Zumba
				7pm - Adult Volleyball		
9 Scrip Orders Due 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour Altar Guild Meeting	10 11 7pm Dartball	12 8:15 Chapel 10am WBS 4:30pm - MBS 7:30pm Adult Choir	13 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	14 NO SCHOOL Winter Break		15 "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JOHN 3:16 THAT WHOMEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE." JOHN 3:16
					21	
16 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee Hour	17 NO SCHOOL President's Day 6:30pm - Church Council Meeting 7pm Dartball	18 8:15 Chapel 10am WBS 4:30pm - MBS 7:30pm Adult Choir	19 8:15 Chapel 10am WBS 4:30pm - MBS 7:30pm Adult Choir	20	21	22 - 10am Zumba
				7pm - Adult Volleyball		
23 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:00am Voters Meeting	24 ICA - Indoor Skating	25 ICA - Indoor Skating	26 - Ash Wednesday 8:15 Chapel 10am WBS 4:30pm - MBS 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:45 Adult Choir	27 ICA - Indoor Skating	28 ICA - Indoor Skating 6pm - Black History Program at ICA	29 - 10am Zumba Walther Bronco Benefit Dinner

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

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

Deatrice, Honey, Administrative Assistant
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Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music
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Home: 708-442-1505

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

February Greeters:

February 2 - The Bells
February 9 - Alicia Blair
February 16 - Open
February 23 - Mike & Maxine



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.

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

**AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER.
AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE. 1 PETER 4:10**