



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.*

Immanuel Informer

April 2024

Volume 19, Issue 10

## **Jesus Accepts and Perfects Our Gifts**

As sinful people, we are incapable of giving God what He deserves from us. However, we can be confident that our gifts are acceptable to God through Jesus. To illustrate this point, there is a story about a wood-carver who early in his life was a renowned carver. He passed on his craft to his son. Later in his life, the old man's eyes began to dim, and his hands began to tremble. He could no longer carve the perfect figures of his youth. He would mar the figure, and imperfections blighted his work. His fading eyes could no longer see the flaws.

During the night, as the father was sleeping, the son would sneak down and correct his father's flaws in the newly carved wood. When the figures passed through the hands of the son, they were made perfect again.

In the same way, we may bring our imperfect gifts with the confidence that, as they pass through the hands of Jesus, they will all be placed before the Father in absolute perfection.

In the beginning, we, as the centerpiece of God's creation, were created in God's image so we were without sin. Just as the early wood-carvings were flawlessly created, so were we. Because of sin, everything changed. Since the act of rebellion in the Garden, mankind has lived in darkness and separated from God. To reconcile us to Himself and to bring us out of darkness into His wonderful light, God sent His Son to live among us and to take our sin with Him to the Cross. Through His death and resurrection, we are forgiven, and He has adopted us as His children.

Because of our relationship with God through Jesus, God is pleased with our works and gifts that are offered in faith. Prompted by faith and love, we give with changed hearts that seek to do God's will. Our gifts express our gratitude to Him and are used to worship Him. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we give generously and cheerfully. God receives our gifts and uses them to provide for His churches, to help the needy, to provide for our Christian school, to support outreach ministries, and a host of Christian organizations and causes. Jesus accepts our gifts, perfects them, and magnifies them so God's purposes are accomplished. Praise God for His wonderful grace that He would choose to work through us.

In the Fellowship and Love of Christ,

Pastor Deombeleg

# Put Your Hands Together

*A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church*

## March 2024 News Report

*Submitted by Jayne Siou, March 25, 2024*

**Private & Online Donations:** \$ 97.00

**Pending Grant Applications: (1) Grant Awards:** None **New Grants Written: (1)**

**PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:**

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Received: 29,568 Lbs.

**PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served:** Saturday 3/9:102 3/23:70 Total 210 for the month

**PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served:** Westchester FP, Elmhurst FP, Interim Housing Center, Abundant Children & Family Services, St. Paul Oak Lawn, Immanuel DesPlaines, Berwyn FP, Youth Crossroads, Pilsen FP, Downers Grove Community Kitchen, BEDS+.

### News

Volunteers: Thank you for your service to the community and supporting our food ministry with your time, talents and treasures. A special thanks to Heather Hempel, for picking up over 2000 lbs. of food rescue from Costco this month! Special thanks to all of you for having purchased food to stock our shelves, Easter candy, and for filling the Little Free Pantry. Lynne Hempel, Doretha Brown, Debbie Valentino, Becky Lelingis, Barb Arndt and those who donate anonymously. THANK YOU!

### Volunteers Needed

- 1.Fundraising Event Planner
- 2.Putting together pantry training manual
- 3.Board Members
- 4.Pantry Freezer Organization

### **The Northern Illinois District-LCMS Annual Shine Event**

Pantry Day SHINE Event: Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 11am

New T-Shirts for everyone! Sign up for this event is located in the Narthex.

### **Expansion Project Update:**

Storage of supplies and running pantry operations is becoming even more difficult. We urgently need this new pantry building. Future pantry operations may need to be drastically scaled back until the funding of the pantry building is completed.

**PYHT: URGENT Request for Official Board Members: See Jayne Siou**

No new or large grants can be written without official Food Pantry Board Members.

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

# Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

## Climbing Higher

In a unique way, the author Max Lucado offers an interesting perspective regarding the life of Christians and the branches of a tree. According to his tree analogy, most Christians sit comfortably on low-lying thick branches. Life for Christians next to the trunk of the tree is steady and predictable. There are higher branches, but they appear risky and a lot less comfortable. In our humanity, we desire to stay where it is safe and easy. We become branch-sitters.

Again, considering the analogy of the tree, we can say that Jesus calls each of us to climb higher in our prayer life, in our worship, and in reading His Word. Are we looking for opportunities to climb higher in our serving, witnessing, and giving? As we climb, the branches will be thinner and less steady, but Christ will support us. The world tells us to stay put on our secure big branches, but the One who loves us is quietly nudging us to go higher. Jesus wants us to depend on and trust in Him. He promises that He will never leave us.

One climb that we may resist the most is in the area of giving. The average Christian household gives approximately 2.5 percent of their income to their church, so most of us are sitting securely on some rather low branches. Our heavenly Father wants us to climb higher in the area of our giving. *“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come”* (1 Corinthians 16:2). We are to climb so that we regularly give a portion of our income. As we climb in our giving, we show our gratitude and thanksgiving for all of God’s blessings. When we climb toward the branch that says “tithe” and go beyond that branch to the one marked “sacrificial giving,” we will experience the joy Jesus referred to, saying, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35).

Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will lead us to higher and higher branches. After all, God knows better than anyone the cost of hanging on a tree.

GOD’S WORD TEACHES US  
TO BE GENEROUS, TO GIVE  
WITH AN OPEN HAND.

“For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land’” (Deuteronomy 15:11).

IT IS MORE  
*blessed*  
♥ TO ♥  
*give*  
THAN TO RECEIVE  
-ACTS 20:35-

## The Golden Rule

Jesus said, *“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you . . .”* (Matthew 7:12). Christ in us enables us to treat others with love and kindness. We can live the Golden Rule. Our hope and desire is that others will return that love to us, although we realize that, just as many didn’t return Christ’s love to Him, others may not return our kindness to us. Just because we don’t always receive goodness and kindness from others, we should never be deterred from expressing God’s love to others.

## Stewardship Corner

God wants us to be fruitful. Spiritual fruit is the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control of Jesus that is seen in us (Galatians 5:22). We are also spiritually fruitful when we share our time, abilities, money, and ourselves with God and others. We can do all these things because of the Holy Spirit Who came to live in us when we were baptized. In the book of John, Jesus explains to us how the Holy Spirit does this. Jesus said we must abide in him. How can we do that? By going to church and Bible studies, by reading the Bible, and by praying. This is how Jesus makes us fruitful stewards who want to help and share with others.

# IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NEWS



*Order Forms are on the table in the narthex.*

**BUONA**  
**BENEFIT NIGHT**

**20% OF SALES WILL BENEFIT**  
Immanuel Christian Academy

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Buona Hillside  
2135 S Wolf Rd. IL 60162  
(708) 236-0575

Upon checkout, please mention your organization. Email fundraising@buona.com to plan your Buona Benefit Night. Not valid with online, app, phone order, catering orders or gift card purchases. Promoting on Buona's premises is prohibited.

**Benefit is from 10:30AM-10:00PM**

- Catering orders count toward our fundraiser, please let the fundraising team know of any catering orders placed to ensure the totals can be added.
- Orders placed in store or in the drive through, while presenting the flyer, count towards our fundraiser.

IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**SCHOOL PTL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, April 16, 2024**  
**AT 5:00PM**  
In the Church Basement  
We Hope to See You There!  
ALL ARE WELCOME

Immanuel Christian Academy

**FULL DAY PRE-K PROGRAM**

HANDS ON, EMERGENT CURRICULUM  
CHRIST - CENTERED INSTRUCTION  
AFFORDABLE EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM  
HOT LUNCH OPTION

**Open Enrollment**

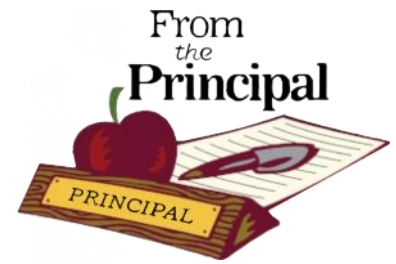
**Call Today!**

Immanuel Christian Academy  
2329 S. Wolf Road  
Hillside, IL 60162  
708-562-5580 x 102  
www.icahillside.org

# IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## It's A God Thing

Valerie Winston



When I was a child, I had a desire to go camping. I had several friends that would go to summer camp every year. They would come back to school and talk about how much fun they had. It wasn't until I got to college that I finally got to have my first camping experience. It was during the summer, and I went with some of the students who also worked on campus. We went tent-camping at Starved Rock State Park. I truly enjoyed it and have since been tent and cabin camping at various campsites in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Some of my greatest camping experiences, however, have been those where I have taken my students on Outdoor Education experiences. I have taken students to various camps in Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. We've experienced rappelling, caving, high ropes, hiking, teambuilding, canoeing, archery, and a host of other activities. This month I will be embarking on my 25<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Education experience.

Over the years, I have developed a saying or a focus about the camp experience. The saying is, "It's a me thing, it's a we thing, it's a God thing." This saying is based on what I hope the students learn about as we plan, prepare, and actually experience at camp. It's also what I hope they carry with them after the experience.

"It's a me thing" is the focus on themselves as we work on their self-esteem and self-confidence. It is hoped that the students will learn more about themselves as they grow and learn to understand and appreciate just how special they are and all that they can be and do. "It's a we thing" is the focus on teambuilding, cooperative learning, and problem solving as a group. They learn to appreciate each other and how to work together.

The last and most important focus is, "It's a God thing." We work on building a stronger relationship to God. Being out in His creation is an amazing and special experience. We get to focus on our role as caretakers of that creation. We also focus on finding the God thing moments in their lives.

A God thing moment is something powerful that happens to them or to someone that they know. It's about God being present and active in their lives. It's the kind of thing that they can't do on their own. Sometimes those God thing moments are loud and sometimes they are very quiet. But either way, it's a blessing to them.

Being able to experience Outdoor Education and camping has truly been one of my favorite God thing moments for 25 years. May we all continue to experience God's blessings and many God thing moments in our lives.

*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.

## **April - Hope**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 20:1–18        | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Isaiah 33:17–24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 20:19–31       | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Isaiah 35:1–10  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 John 21:1–14        | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Isaiah 40:1–17  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 John 21:15–25       | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Isaiah 40:18–31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Jude 1–25           | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Isaiah 42:1–17  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Ephesians 1:1–23    |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Isaiah 43:1–13  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Ephesians 2:1–22    | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Isaiah 44:21–28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Ephesians 3:1–21    | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Isaiah 45:1–13  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Ephesians 4:1–16    | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Isaiah 48:1–22  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Ephesians 4:17–32  | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Isaiah 51:1–23  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Ephesians 5:1–20   | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Isaiah 52:1–12  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Ephesians 5:21—6:4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Isaiah 54:1–17  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Ephesians 6:10–24  |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Isaiah 56:1–8   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Isaiah 25:1–9      | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Psalm 16        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Isaiah 26:1–19     | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Psalm 34        |

**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.

## **April Birthdays**

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4 - Becky Lelingis    | 19 - Luke Svec       |
| 5 - Phyllis Ondrovic  | 20 - David Mannella  |
| 6 - Laneta Washington | 25 - Miguel Lepe Jr. |
| 9 - Miguel Lepe Sr.   | 28 - Heidi Murphy    |
| 11 - Wayne Valentino  | 30 - Viviana Pena    |

## **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. Evelyn Haynes
2. Corinne Hein
3. *The Henderson Family*
4. *The Hiner Family*
5. *The Holston - Flie Family*
6. The Honey Family
7. Violet Horn
8. Sandra Houle
9. The Iacovetti Family
10. Dorothy Ivers
11. *The Jackson Family*
12. *The Johnson Family*
13. *The Jones Family*
14. The Karpierz Family
15. Clyde & Omie Lane
16. Becky Lelingis
17. The Lepe Family
18. *The Lewis Family*
19. The Mannella Family
20. Len & Susan Mazanek
21. Scott Mazanek
22. *The McKenzie Family*
23. *The Moore Family*
24. Ed & Karen Mulvihill
25. Heidi Murphy
26. *The Muskwe Family*
27. *The Nash Family*
28. Kathy Nelson
29. Lynda Nickl
30. Mike & Carol Northcutt

*Altar Guild thanks everyone that helped decorate for Easter with such colorful blooms. May that vision bring Easter to mind all year long.*





# April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  9:30am Worship H.C. 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	2 April Fools' Day Easter Break No School	3 Easter Break No School	4 Easter Break No School	5 Easter Break No School	6 Easter Break No School	7 9:30am Worship H.C. 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study
8 9:30am Worship H.C. 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	9 School Resumes 3pm Track Practice 5:30 p.m. Day School Commission Meeting	10 1:45pm Chapel 3:00 p.m. Faculty Meeting	11 Vision & Hearing Screening	12 7pm Adult Volleyball	13 11:00 am Shine Event Food Pantry Distribution	14 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship School Choir Sings 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study
15 9:30am Worship H.C. 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	16 3pm Track Practice 5pm PTL Meeting Buona Benefit Day <b>5th &amp; 6th Grade Walcamp</b>	17 1:45pm Chapel	18 <b>5th &amp; 6th Grade Walcamp</b>	19 Fine Arts Fest @ Grace River Forest	20 11:00 am Shine Event Food Pantry Distribution	21 9:30am Worship H.C. 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study
22 - Earth Day 	23 3pm Track Practice	24 Administrative Professionals Day 1:45pm Chapel	25 Bundt Cake Orders Due	26 <b>6pm Sports Banquet</b> 7pm Adult Volleyball	27 9am Garden Workday	28 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study
29 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	30 3pm Track Practice	May 1 1:45pm Chapel	May 2 National Day of Prayer	May 3	May 4 <b>Track Meet at Willowbrook High School</b>	

*Immanuel Lutheran Church  
2317 - 2329 South Wolf Road  
Hillside, IL 60162*

*Church phone - 708-562-5590  
School phone - 708-562-5580  
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

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Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music  
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**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,  
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*