



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

December 2023

Volume 19, Issue 6

Sent to Tell the Good News

The season of Advent has provided opportunity for us to reflect on God's great love for us fallen sinners that has caused Him to send His very own Son Who came for the ungodly, even for those who will never acknowledge His sacrifice and who reject His free gift of salvation. Along with the joy that we have in our Savior, especially at this time of the celebration of Jesus' birth, the knowledge that not all experience this joy brings a sorrow to us as it does to the heart of our Lord.

Just as God in His love sent His Son into this world to save the lost, so we are now sent to tell others of that love. The shepherds at Jesus' birth did not hesitate to tell others. *"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen..."* (Luke 2:20). Like the shepherds, our joy and mission are to share the good news with all people that Jesus came *"to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10). By grace, we are invited to be participants who declare to the world how God has reconciled us to Himself through His Son. God makes His appeal to unbelievers through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we share the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth. We are to preach and teach the Word of God.

God calls us to share our faith and to let His light shine brightly. You and I have something to share that is needed by others, and that is the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, Who came to us as a babe in a manger. In light of what Christ has done for us, we respond with a desire to serve and glorify Him. We are equipped and enabled by the Holy Spirit through His Word and Sacraments (2 Timothy 3:16-17) to be participants in His mission. We are the feet, eyes, ears, mouths, and hands who carry the message, who see the needs, who listen to the cries of those in need, who bring help to them, who tell them the message of reconciliation.

God's Word challenges us to use our time, talents, and money, so we can make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Because God is always with us, we can be faithful in our purpose to be God's participants in His mission to save all people.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and see Jesus as the reason for our joy. God's blessings on your Christmas worship and celebration with loved ones.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Pastor Steve



IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Best Thing

Valerie Winston

Since my students did such a great job of helping me with my last newsletter article, I decided to ask for their help once again. I wanted to know what they thought the best thing was about Christmas. I expected that some or most of the responses would be about the material things that they receive as presents. There were very few of those responses though. I was pleasantly surprised at how they responded.

Just about every student wrote that the best thing about Christmas was being able to spend time with their loved ones, their family and friends. They even included that they love sharing time cooking, playing games, singing Christmas carols, and just hanging out.

There were, however, two very heart-warming responses that truly spoke of what is the best thing about Christmas. In the first of the two, the student said that the best thing was going to the tree and seeing the star and knowing that it's a gift from God.

The second heart-warming response was the following, "The best thing about Christmas is that the story keeps going. It's the story of Jesus birth, the promised Messiah. The story is in the Bible. They have even made songs of that story. Jesus is God's Son. God called Him and we were saved."

And with that we know that Jesus is the best thing about Christmas!
Merry Christmas!



Shop with 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 at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for Immanuel. *Order Forms are in the church hallway or enroll and order online: www.raiseright.com/enroll/ Enrollment Code: 9D337C6F55761* **Orders Due December 10, 2023**

The Great Exchange

Let's recall for a moment Jesus' encounter with the Rich Ruler. This young man came to Jesus asking how he could inherit eternal life. First Jesus threw the law at him: Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't give false testimony, honor your parents. Without hesitation, the young man asserted that he had kept these commandments all his life. Jesus said: *"One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me"* (Luke 18:22). This the Rich Young Ruler could not do, for he loved his wealth more than anything else.

How different was Jesus' response when asked to give up the glories of Heaven for the lowliness of earth. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8:9, *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."*

How have we become rich through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ? What do we count as riches? Do we look at wealth the way the Rich Young Ruler did or through Christ's eyes?

Jesus was willing to give up His whole world in order that our souls could be saved. He gave His life in exchange for ours. We celebrate at this time of year His coming to earth as a helpless baby for the purpose of exchanging His life for our eternal lives.

In our prayers of thanks for the birth of the Christ Child, let us also ask Him to give us hearts of humility like His and the will to expend ourselves in lives of giving and serving in imitation of His life and death.

**ADVENT IS PREPARATION
FOR CHRIST'S COMING – HIS
SECOND COMING! THE BABY OF
BETHLEHEM WILL COME AGAIN,
THIS TIME IN GLORY!**

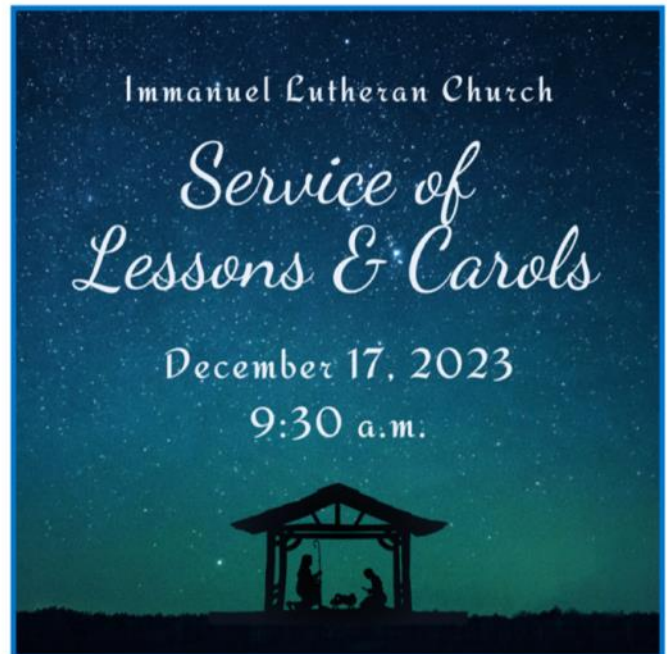
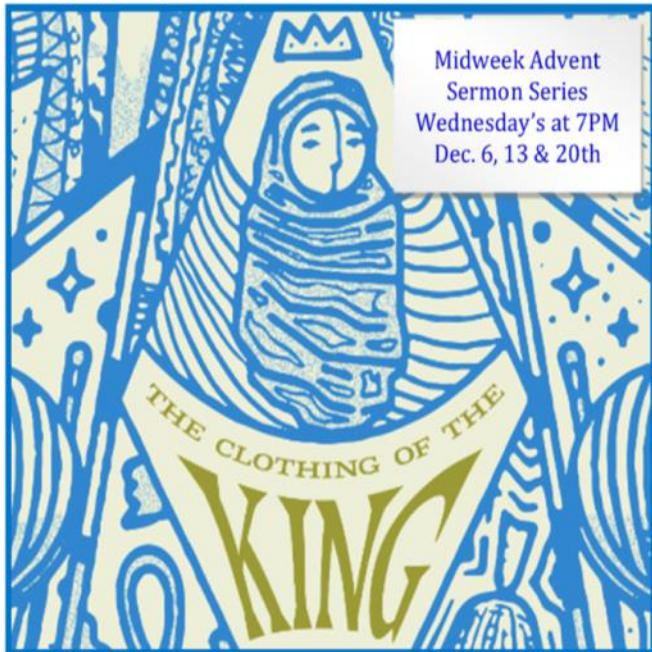
"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11).



**LET US ADORE OUR SAVIOR LIKE
THE SHEPHERDS DID – WITH OUR
PRESENCE – AND LIKE THE MAGI
DID – WITH OUR GIFTS.**

"Praise our God, all you His servants,
you who fear Him, both small and
great!" (Revelation 19:5)

Stewardship Corner - During advent as we prepare our minds and hearts for the birth of Jesus, we are reminded of how John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Christ. John the Baptist, who lived during the time of Jesus, was God's special messenger. When people were questioning who he was, he said, *"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'"* (John 1:23). In his ministry, John the Baptist warned people about being greedy. Greed will keep us from sharing our clothes, food, and money with people in need. Jesus shared the same message when He said, *"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions"* (Luke 12:15).



Immanuel Lutheran Church
2329 S. Wolf Road Hillside, IL

Holiday Services

JOIN US WEDNESDAYS
IN ADVENT AT 7PM FOR
MID-WEEK SERVICES

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

DEC. 17TH, 9:30 A.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY SERVICE

DEC. 24TH, 9:30 A.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

DEC. 24TH, 9:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY

DEC. 25TH, 10:00 A.M.



Poinsettia Plants will be part of the chancel decorations for Christmas at Immanuel. If you would like to make a plant purchase, special order forms are available. Orders and payments must be made before December 10th. The plants are \$15.50 each. Checks should be made payable to Immanuel Altar Guild. The plants can be picked up immediately after the Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, contact Barb Arndt at 1-630-655-0797.

If you wish to have your yearly 2023 contributions counted towards this calendar year, they must be in no later than Sunday, December 31st. Anything given after that date will count toward 2024 contributions.

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.

December

- ☐ 1 Mark 1:1-8
- ☐ 2 Mark 1:9-20

First Sunday of Advent

- ☐ 3 Mark 13:1-23
- ☐ 4 Mark 13:24-37
- ☐ 5 Zephaniah 1:1-18
- ☐ 6 Zephaniah 2:1-15
- ☐ 7 Zephaniah 3:1-20
- ☐ 8 Jeremiah 33:1-13
- ☐ 9 Jeremiah 33:14-26

Second Sunday of Advent

- ☐ 10 Isaiah 7:1-25
- ☐ 11 Isaiah 9:2-7
- ☐ 12 Isaiah 12:1-6
- ☐ 13 Isaiah 54:1-17
- ☐ 14 Isaiah 55:1-13
- ☐ 15 Isaiah 60:1-22
- ☐ 16 Isaiah 61:1-11

Third Sunday of Advent

- ☐ 17 Isaiah 62:1-12
- ☐ 18 Isaiah 63:1-14
- ☐ 19 Isaiah 65:17-25
- ☐ 20 Isaiah 66:1-24
- ☐ 21 Luke 1:1-25
- ☐ 22 Luke 1:26-56
- ☐ 23 Luke 1:57-80

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- ☐ 24 Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day

- ☐ 25 John 1:1-18
- ☐ 26 John 1:19-34
- ☐ 27 John 1:35-51
- ☐ 28 Luke 2:21-38
- ☐ 29 Luke 2:39-52
- ☐ 30 Revelation 21:1-27
- ☐ 31 Revelation 22:1-21

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.

For the Record

Deaths

Carolyn Barry - October 29



A Month of Prayer - The fellowship of prayer consists of caring people who pray daily for members in the church and God's people throughout the world.

1. Pray for the lonely
2. Pray for people in financial trouble
3. Pray for those addicted to alcohol or drugs
4. Pray for the tired and weary
5. Pray for the sick, the chronically ill.
6. Pray for the faculty & staff, at Immanuel
7. Pray for those struggling with past hurt, abuse, trauma
8. Pray for people who lack clean water
9. Pray for people who are hungry
10. Pray for people who do not think they need God
11. Pray for people taking care of elderly parents or family
12. Pray for those who grieve, who are missing loved ones this holiday season
13. Pray for the persecuted church, believers and new - believers
14. Pray for those who wish to work but cannot find employment
15. Pray for God to break the spirit of greed and selfishness
16. Pray for those who do not have a relationship with Jesus
17. Pray for prisoners who feel abandoned & unworthy
18. Pray for those in war torn countries, for peace
19. Pray for those whose dreams have died, who feel stuck, defeated and unsure
20. Pray for the sons and daughters trapped in sex-slavery. Pray for freedom.
21. Pray for governmental leaders, for wisdom, integrity, for God's will to be done
22. Pray for those who are workaholics, for right priorities
23. Pray for joy, generosity and grace for all people
24. Pray for ministries that celebrate and protect life
25. Celebrate our Savior! Give thanks for this Joyous holiday!
26. Pray for Pastor and his family
27. Pray for Immanuel's students and their families
28. Pray for those in seminary and Christian education that they will fulfill their callings
29. Pray for Immanuel's food ministries
30. Pray for broken families, for reconciliation
31. Pray for peace and prosperity in the New Year

December Birthdays

03 - Maya Lepe

03 - Lizette Pena

07 - Sarah Blair

08 - Susan Mazanek

08 - Carlton Davis - 3th Gr.

09 - Zachary Blair

10 - Karen Bimler

11 - Lance Turner

13 - Rita Stallings

14 - Brooklyn Gerard, 3rd Gr.

14 - Cameron Kelley, 1st Gr.

14 - Cloe Lewis, 7th Gr.

16 - Jayne Siou

18 - Maxine Mannella

19 - Arabella Youhas - 3rd Gr.

20 - Eva Caldwell - K

20 - Miciah Hiner - 3rd Gr.

21 - Mia Railing

24 - Zachary Redis

26 - Corinne Hein

26 - Steven Stewart - 8th Gr.

26 - Evin Thurman - K

29 - Jaycion Ruffin - 2nd Gr.

PYHT November 2023 News Report

Private & Online Donations: \$ 4086.00 (\$2,200 came from Vicki Maher Memorial)

Pending Grant Applications: (4) New Grants Written this Month: (1)

Grant Awards: Nicor Community Foundation \$2,500, U-Haul: \$150 (in kind)

PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Received: 32,600 Lbs.

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served: Saturday Nov 11th 147 Families/511 Individuals
NEW RECORD

PYHT Thanksgiving Distributions: 11/21 78 Families **Post Thanksgiving 11/25** 60 Families

PYHT-Weekday Food Pantry: 113 families

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served: Westchester Food Pantry, St. Paul-Oak Lawn, Downers Grove Soup Kitchen, Elmwood Park Community Church FP, St. Matthews Soup Kitchen, BEDS+, Village of Hillside, **NEW** Interim Housing Center-Downers Grove, Abundant Children & Family Services

Volunteer Stipends Paid Out: \$0

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

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

Pantry Meeting: Sunday, January 28th after/during Coffee Hour

Volunteers and church members are encouraged to participate and share input on the future of our Food Ministry and Expansion Project. NID-SHINE Event Ideas Plans will also be made at this time.

Volunteers: We are always grateful for the wonderful volunteer turnout on Saturday Pantry Day, Holidays, and the response to the pantry needs during the week. Thank you to our newest volunteers, Ruth Anne Brendemuhl and Marilyn Weeks! Thank you, Bill, Dave, Gay, Ron, Randy, Donn & Heather Hempel for picking up food rescues on Thanksgiving week! The extra food helped us have a fabulous post-Thanksgiving food giveaway.

New Electric Outlet: Thanks to Ric Perez for his donation of time, skills, and materials for installing the outlet for our pantry cooler! Thanks for keeping us up to code!

Holiday Food Distributions: Volunteers are needed!

Christmas Distribution will be held on Friday, December 22nd. At 11am, Volunteers are needed!

Fundraising: We will continue fundraising, especially for our Holiday Meal Giveaways. Food Pantry Expansion Project fundraiser appeal went out earlier this month.

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

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>3 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study</p>			 <p>6 - 1:50pm Chapel 3pm Faculty Meeting 6pm Supper 7pm Advent Service 7:30pm Adult Choir</p>		1 2	 <p>9 11am Food Pantry</p>
<p>4 10 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study 4pm Christmas Program</p>		5 5:30pm Day School Meeting	<p>13 - Spirit Week 1:50pm Chapel 6pm Supper 7pm Advent Service 7:30pm Adult Choir</p>	7 14 - Spirit Week 6pm - Cozy Christmas School Event	8 7pm Adult Volleyball	
<p>11 - Spirit Week</p> <p>17 - 9:30am Service of Lessons & Carols followed by Cookie Walk, Fellowship & Caroling with the Choir</p>		12 - Spirit Week	<p>20 - pTLe Christmas Story / Chapel 6pm Supper 7pm Advent Service 7:30pm Adult Choir</p>	14 - Spirit Week	15 - Spirit Week	16
<p>25 - Christmas Day 10:00am Worship No School Christmas Break</p> <p>24 - 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study 9:00pm Candlelight Service HC</p>		19 26 - No School Christmas Break	<p>27 - No School Christmas Break</p>	21 - No School Christmas Break	22 - No School Christmas Break 11am Christmas Meal Giveaway 7pm Adult Volleyball	23
<p>31 - New Year's Eve</p>  <p>Happy New Year!</p>			<p>January 3 School Resumes</p>	28 - No School Christmas Break	29 - No School Christmas Break	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

www.immanuel-hillside.org

RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

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Deatrice Honey, Administrative Assistant
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Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music
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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*