



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.*

Immanuel Informer

April 2022

Volume 17, Issue 10

## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

That beautiful proclamation returns on Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. How exciting to joyfully praise God once again after such a long absence during Lent. I invite you to join us on Palm Sunday and that week leading up to Easter morning. During Holy Week our repentance deepens as we focus on the events of Jesus' Passion. His entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday until his death on the cross and burial in the garden tomb, draws us into the details of his great suffering and sacrifice for all people. Everything will change on Easter morning. We will do a one-eighty and shout and sing and celebrate. We will “Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness” (LSB 849) and conquered death for us. Be sure to invite someone, a neighbor, a friend, or a family member that hasn't been to church in a while.

The world is obsessed with what man can provide and lately that has been very disappointing. The world's condition is like a glass vase dropped on the ground shattered in a thousand pieces. No amount of glue will ever restore it to its original condition. It is changed forever. But! Our Creator God in great love for us provided the solution, the remedy, the cure, to our brokenness. Easter morning brings us into God's space away from all the darkness, sadness, and disappointments of life.

The other day I was driving to Hillside on my morning commute. After several days of rain and dark skies, the sun was shining brightly, and I felt revived. It brought a smile to my face and a warmth in my heart. Joy welled up within me (seriously!).

When we celebrate on Easter Sunday, we are putting aside all the promises broken by the world, we are replacing it with much needed Restoration through Christ's Resurrection from the dead. In Christ God brings hope for the world. Sins forgiven and the promise of eternal life contrast the failures of daily life. In Christ, God replaces the sadness of our sinful lives with new life: *“With joy you will [all] draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3)*. Jesus said, *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” (Jn 7:38)*. This is the great blessing we have by virtue of our new life in Christ. Allow that joy to overflow each day, especially in times of difficulty.

Our relationship with God has been restored. We who were once His enemies, are now friends. Alleluia! We can now approach our loving Savior freely and with confidence, knowing that the love of God and His forgiveness is greater than my sin. I know how difficult it has been for each of you the past couple of years. Yet, God meets you in your sorrow and suffering, in the parched desert of everyday life. He comes to you in the promise of His Word, in the forgiveness of sins in bread and wine, all to bring you times of refreshing. You have new life now in Christ, stay close to him. Listen to Jesus, *“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 15:5)*.

Let us come and worship our Risen Savior. Alleluia!

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

# Put Your Hands Together

*A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church*

## PYHT NEWS March 2022

**Cash & Online Donations: \$150.00**

**Donation: \$1,500 from Immanuel Lutheran Church - Des Plaines Endowment Fund**

**Grant Award: \$7,000 from Faith in Place (Shared grant with OSHCG)**

**New Grants Written: (1)**

**Pending Grant Applications: (1)**

**New Distribution Partnerships: (3) Oak Street Health, Downers Grove Soup Kitchen, Project 22:9**

**New Donation Partnerships: (1) Gate Gourmet**

### **PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:**

**In-Kind Food Donations Received: 51,000lbs**

Sysco, Costco, EYFP.

**PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served:**

**March 12 (103)**

**PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Individuals Served:**

**March 12: 411**

**PYHT Food Relief Agencies-Ministries Served:**

Hope Chicago Church & Academy, Youth Crossroads, Westchester Food Pantry, Lyons Church, St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen, Immanuel-Des Plaines, St. Paul-Oak Lawn, BEDS Plus-LaGrange, Food Rescue US, Fight2Feed, Christ the King-Chicago, Elmhurst Food Pantry, Lutheran Church Charities, Downers Grove Soup Kitchen, Oak Street Health (Special Event).

**Volunteer Stipends Paid Out: \$400, \$200**

### **NEWS:**

**Grant Award, Faith in Place:** We are truly grateful for this grant that will enable us to work with the Old Schoolhouse Community Garden for composting needs and be better stewards of the land our Lord has entrusted to us. The Grant will cover the cost of a heavy-duty tree branch shredder, compost training for us and other churches and food pantries.

Our Food Ministry, which includes the Old Schoolhouse Community Garden & Orchard continues to need ongoing support and prayers. I believe it is time to expand this ministry in order to reach its full potential.

There are many important considerations to me made as far as long term sustainably that we need to discuss, particularly the usage of space. Please share your input, suggestions, and concerns.

**Easter Appeal:** Thank you for support and bringing in your food donations. Please consider making a financial contribution to help us offset the cost of our Easter Pantry Bags and supplies. Easter distribution is Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, patrons will receive invitations to Easter Worship, Easter Prayers, Chocolate Cross gift box along with their meal boxes and pantry bags.



### **Message From Jayne:**

It is a pleasure for me to serve the Lord by serving as volunteer director of PYHT Ministry, we could not do any of this without the support of our congregation and the many other volunteers who sacrifice their valuable time.

## Maybe Today!

During the week before His Crucifixion, Jesus talked about the End of the Age (Matthew 24). He indicated what some of the signs of the end will be, and He described what His return will be like. What He did not tell us, though, is exactly when these things will happen. In fact, Jesus said, "...the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." That is why, He emphasized, "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44).

How would you spend your last day if you knew when it was? What would be most important to you? What would you do to "be ready"? Jesus' point is that we should spend each day as if it is the last. He told us that the "faithful and wise servant" is the one "whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time. Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes" (Matthew 24:45). In this parable, Jesus is the master, and we are His servants. Whom is Jesus placing under our care?

What are those responsibilities that our Master has given us? Are they not all summed up in the Great Commandments to love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and our neighbors as ourselves? And are we not to be baptizing and teaching the Faith to all the world? Surely these are the tasks our Lord has given us along with His promise to go with us, to provide for us all the gifts we need to carry out His mission, to empower us to do His will, and to forgive and renew us when we fail and get discouraged.

Did you wake up this morning and look out your window and say, "Maybe today!"? For the Christian, this hope brings joy and urgency – joy that Heaven is near and urgency that we want everyone to be there. Let us, then, live every day imagining that this is the day of Christ's coming. Let us not get discouraged as we go about the business of the Kingdom, keeping in mind the unbelievable prize God has in store for His faithful stewards.

Even though we do not know the time of Jesus' return, we "must be ready" for His coming. Beware of any teacher who claims to know when Jesus will come again. What we can do is stay steadfast in our faith and to feed and take care of the people whom God has placed under our care. How blessed we are that God wants to use our hands, feet, and mouth to help and minister to others!

**DURING LENT, WE FACE HEAD ON THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF SIN IN OUR LIVES AND OUR NEED FOR A SAVIOR.**

*"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:56).*



## Stewardship Corner

God's love for us is constant and unconditional. In the beginning, God created a beautiful world for us to enjoy. Through the atoning blood of His Son, He has forgiven us of our evil and sinful ways. In spite of our rebellion, He sent Jesus to suffer and die for us. His Word promises that He will never forsake us (Hebrews 13:5) nor stop loving us (Psalm 103:17). It is the essence of God's nature to love. We don't need to question His love for us; however, we do need to ask, "How am I responding to His love?" "Does my life reflect His love for me?" "Does my giving and serving demonstrate my love for Him?"

# IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## New Life at Easter

Valerie Winston

I have a friend who loves Easter. It is his favorite holiday. He loves the joy, wonder, and happiness as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. At Easter time, people tend to think of new life and new beginnings. We begin to see those true signs of spring in a budding tree, a blooming flower, or a newborn animal. The welcome release from the bitter cold winter to the warmth and sunshine feels like a rebirth.

Easter has become a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life. It is also a time for hope for the future. The resurrection of our Lord is the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation for all people. However, it is not the end of a journey it is the beginning.

Easter is about new life in Christ. We have been redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. We receive a new life through Jesus and because of Him we are new creations. We are made clean and perfect. With Jesus' help we live a newly created life of goodness.

Jesus' resurrection is a life-changing event that should be a part of our every day lives. Following Christ should be our main priority. Every part of our lives should flow from our relationship to Christ. With Christ at work in our lives we can face challenges and obstacles more readily. We are strengthened through Him.

As we continue to let Jesus work in our lives, we are able to have the joy of His resurrection with us all the time. As we deepen our relationship with Christ, we become transformed into that new creation. Jesus is the resurrection and the life and through Him we are able to have new life at Easter.

## IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NOTHING BUNDT CAKES FUNDRAISER



FORMS ARE LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE RETURN ORDER FORMS AND PAYMENT TO THE CHURCH BY APRIL 10TH OR THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY APRIL 13TH. EACH BUNDTLET IS \$5.00 AND ALL FUNDS BENEFIT ICA'S PARENT TEACHER LEAGUE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





## Holy<sup>+</sup>Week Services

April 10, Palm Sunday Cantata	9: 30 A.M.
April 14, Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion	7:00 P.M.
April 15, Good Friday Tenebrae Service	7:00 P.M.
April 17, Easter Sunday	9:30 A.M.

@immanuelhillside



Easter Sunday

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

## Easter Egg Hunt

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17 SUNDAY APRIL

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Bring your basket for collecting eggs and meet on the front lawn after church.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 2317 S. WOLF RD. HILLSIDE, IL



*A new Crown of Thorns Lenten banner has been gifted by Randy and Michelle Weeks in memory of Lois Boese.*



*Our fresh flower arrangements are provided by Betty's Flowers in Brookfield, a family-run business. You may order one arrangement for \$35 or two arrangements for \$70. Single arrangements will be displayed on the floor in front of the altar in a decorative container. Payment for flowers should be by check only made payable to IMMANUEL ALTAR GUILD, a change from the previous payment process. Further instructions can be found in the Order Book located on the Ushers' Stand in the Narthex.*

## Community Garden

A new garden season has begun. If you are interested in gardening with us or working as a garden volunteer, please speak with Tom Czubernat. Help is always needed harvesting produce for our food pantry and our food ministry partners.



*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**

1 Mark 13:24-37

2 Mark 14:1-11

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

3 Mark 14:12-31

4 Mark 14:32-52

5 Mark 14:53-72

6 Mark 15:1-15

7 Mark 15:16-32

8 Mark 15:33-47

9 Mark 16:1-20

#### **Palm Sunday**

10 Hebrews 1:1-14

11 Hebrews 2:1-18

12 Hebrews 3:1-19

13 Hebrews 4:1-16

#### **Maundy Thursday**

14 Hebrews 5:1-14

#### **Good Friday**

15 Hebrews 6:1-20

16 Hebrews 7:1-22

#### **Easter Sunday**

17 Hebrews 7:23-8:13

18 Hebrews 9:1-28

19 Hebrews 10:1-18

20 Hebrews 10:19-39

21 Hebrews 11:1-29

22 Hebrews 12:1-24

23 Hebrews 13:1-21

24 Luke 4:1-15

25 Luke 4:16-30

26 Luke 4:31-44

27 Luke 5:1-16

28 Luke 5:17-39

29 Luke 6:1-19

30 Luke 6:20-38

**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**

Nothing to report



## **April Birthdays**

4 - Becky Lelingis

5 - Phyllis Ondrovic

6 - Laneta Washington

8 - Vernon Witt

9 - Miguel Lepe

11 - Wayne Valentino

19 - Luke Svec

20 - David Mannella

25 - Miguel Lepe Jr.

28 - Heidi Murphy

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.

1. Rita Stallings
2. Svec Family
3. Thomas Family  
(Chris, Katie, Braydon & Carson)
4. Thomas Family  
(Rick, Paris Zariah, Regan & Tripp)
5. Lisa Tipples
6. Lance Turner
7. Wayne & Debbie Valentino
8. Thy & Sarah Vu
9. Patricia Washington
10. Marilyn Weeks
11. Randy & Michelle Weeks
12. The Welch Family
13. Dorothy Westphal
14. Philbert Wilcox Sr.
15. Philbert Wilcox Jr.
16. Brett Willis
17. Valerie Winston
18. Vern Witt
19. Harold Zedler
20. Annetta Zimmerman
21. Ron & Barb Arndt
22. Susan Arnold
23. Taylor Balslew
24. Leonard Bartels
25. The Bell Family
26. Jennifer Bettin
27. Jeffrey Bettin
28. Karen Bimler
29. The Blair Family
30. Bud Boese



# April 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					7:00 p.m. Adult Volleyball	
3 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30 a.m. Worship HC 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	4 6pm Church Council Budget Meeting	5 3pm Faculty Meeting 6:00 pm. Lenten Supper / 7:00 pm. Lenten Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	6 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Meeting (church parking lot)	7 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. PYHTT Food Pantry	8	9
10 - Palm Sunday 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Cantata Service 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	11	12	13 14 - Maundy Thursday 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Service with Holy Communion	15 - Good Friday NO SCHOOL 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service of Darkness	16	
17 - <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship HC followed by Easter egg hunt for the kids and Do-It-Yourself Easter Breakfast	18 No School Easter Break	19 No School Easter Break	20 No School Easter Break	21 No School Easter Break	22 No School Easter Break 7:00 p.m. Adult Volleyball	23
24 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	25 School Resumes	26	27 7:30 pm Choir Practice	28 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Meeting	29	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](mailto:general@immanuel-hillside.org)

[www.immanuel-hillside.org](http://www.immanuel-hillside.org)

**RETURN REQUESTED**

**POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL**

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Rev. Steve Deombeleg, Pastor

[ilcpastor@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:ilcpastor@immanuel-hillside.org)

708-562-5590 ext. 101 Cell: 847-714-6080

Deatrice Honey, Administration Assistant

[general@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:general@immanuel-hillside.org)

708-562-5580 ext. 200

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music

[dhempel@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:dhempel@immanuel-hillside.org)

Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 205

Home: 708-442-1505

Valerie Winston, Principal

[vwinston@immanuel-hillside.org](mailto:vwinston@immanuel-hillside.org)

708-562-5580 ext. 201

[www.icaillside.org](http://www.icaillside.org)



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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*