



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

2021

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The Word of the Lord Stands Forever

Isaiah chapter forty begins with the words, “Comfort, comfort my people says your God” (40:1). Speaking through the Lord’s prophet, God reminds the Israelites that they are still His covenant people. During their time of conquest by the Babylonians, a time of subjugation, deportation, and a longing to return home, God promises His chosen people comfort and restoration from their exile. They know what it’s like to suffer and be driven out of their land. Life is no longer the same. Their freedom has been stolen, cities have been plundered, and their dignity has been scrubbed—a full on assault. They now live in a different land. A land not their own. They are foreigners subject to a more powerful kingdom and they are at their mercy without any sign of a return to normalcy. Drastic change has taken place and life is no longer stable. What to do.

The long drawn out days of the CORONA Virus have weighed heavy on us in similar ways. We have lived in a very different land, subject to an insidious virus, at the mercy of the powers that be who decide our freedoms. Assaults taking place all around us due to a variety of reasons—all bad. In a way, we have been exiled from our land, from the familiar—what we would call normal. Our world has changed drastically—life is no longer stable. Yet we, like the Israelite’s, have been given a promise from God that we are still His chosen people, set apart for His purposes.

The prophet, speaking for God, says,

A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:6-8

Those words are echoed by the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:24-25. They tell us that life in this world passes quickly. Yet, although we see trouble all around us, we have God’s promise that “the Word of the Lord remains forever.” Even before creation God knew that His creation would fall into sin and reject him, resulting in death. But God in His great love, before the world was made, determined to send His Son, the spotless Lamb, to be our sacrifice. Now, through His Word and Sacrament, He continually calls us to Himself for times of refreshing. In a world obsessed with change and progress, God’s changeless will and Word are constant in this changing life. Come and find rest for your soul in our promise-making God who is the promise-keeping God.

Let us pray. Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Pastor Steve

Spring Food Pantry Dates

MAY 1, 15 & 29

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Safe Drive-Thru Distribution. Free and Open to All.
Put Your Hands Together Food Outreach

Put Your Hands Together April Update

Agencies Served:

Christ the King x 2
St. Matthews Soup Kitchen x 2
Abundant Children & Family Services x 2
Inner City Impact x 4
Cicero Community Collaborative x 4
Housing Forward
Chicago Hope Church & Academy x3
Westchester Food Pantry x 4
Quinn House-Maywood
Fight2Feed
St. Paul Oak Lawn
BEDS+, LaGrange & Worth
Breakfast with Baby

PYHT Pantry Day Service:

April 3 120 Families
April 17 100 Families

Mobile Food Pantry Events: PYHT Provided all the Food for these events

Inner City Impact & Cicero Community Collaborative - April 2, April 16, April 23
Chicago Hope Church & Academy - April 2, April 16, Freedom Missionary Baptist Church - VIBE - April 30

Notable News: Fight2Feed has been our most productive food relief agency partner in food distribution on a most blessed scale. In April PYHT donated a total of 103 pallets

of rescued food, weighing 72,966 lbs. in a “pass through” from Delta Airlines. PYHT spends many volunteer hours planning and organizing the logistics of such large food distributions.

Thanks be to God & Our Donors & Distribution Partners:

Thanks be to God for not only supplying the generous food donations but the active agencies and ministry partners who helped distribute massive amounts of food. Thanks to Fight2Feed PYHT has reached over \$1M (Yes! \$1,012,800.00) in In-Kind food donations. This is an estimated retail value based on tax deductible invoicing from our donors. Thanks to Norman Distribution, Michael Lewis Co., Sysco, Fight2Feed, Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry, and Addison Township Food Pantry for their weekly and monthly donations.

Volunteers: Thank you to all the volunteers, for everything! On Saturday, April 3, we had 31 helpers!

New Distribution Partners:

VIBE, Ministry-Fellowship M.B. Church-Chicago South

Grants: No new grant awards in April. Grants written to Dunkin Joy in Childhood Foundation, Safeway Foundation, CIGNA Foundation for our “Free Summer Food for Kids” program. A grant was also written to cover the expense of advocating Government Food/M meal Programs for people in need and assist them in program enrollment.

Our **major** expenses are “dry food” purchases for our pantry bags, truck rental fees for donation pickups/deliveries, the cost of bags, and warehouse rental fees.

As of May, we will be purchasing food from a food outlet, that will help us provide a wider variety of food for our pantry bags and help lower the cost.



We are less than \$1000 away from having enough funds to repair the church organ. We would love to reach our goal by the end of May. To help us reach our goal of \$2500, give online today.

Visit: onrealm.org/ilchillside/give/organ



Movie Night! The Chosen Is taking place in the sanctuary on select Fridays. We will follow the same safety guidelines as those used during worship. Please check the Sunday Bulletin for May dates.

Practice Hospitality

The Bible Pocket Dictionary defines hospitality as “ the gracious provision of food and lodging to strangers. Kindness toward travelers and strangers was encouraged in both Old Testament and New Testament times.” The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote, “*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality*” (Romans 12:13). When we are hospitable, we express our compassion and concern for others.

Through faith, we understand that it is God’s will that we give of ourselves and our time generously to both our friends and strangers. We are called to minister through our witnessing, serving, and giving. We are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, to practice hospitality, to clothe the naked, to tend to the sick, and to be a blessing to others because God has blessed us. But we do not do these things alone. Our Lord promises to be with us. “*I am with you always, to the end of the age*” (Matthew 28:20). Not only is God with us, He provides us strength to accomplish His purposes. “*I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand*” (Isaiah 41:10b).

The basis for hospitality is Christian love. Peter, who was one of Jesus’ 12 apostles, exhorts us: “*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly... Show hospitality to one another without grumbling*” (1 Peter 4:8-9). Because of God’s love for us, we are able to love others with a willing spirit and unselfish motives. We do not express love and hospitality out of compulsion or duty but rather in response to God’s love for us and out of a desire to be of service to others. May God help us all open our eyes to see opportunities to allow God’s love to flow through us to others.

**AS GOD’S STEWARDS, WE
ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR
ALL THAT HE ENTRUSTS TO US.**

“Moreover, it is required of stewards
that they be found trustworthy”
(1 Corinthians 4:2).



**FILLED WITH THE HOLY
SPIRIT, WE REFLECT GOD’S
LOVE TO OTHERS.**

“For this is the message that you
have heard from the beginning, that
we should love one another”
(1 John 3:11).

Stewardship Corner

Through faith, we know that Jesus came to earth to be our sin-bearer. In addition to leading the perfect life on our behalf and atoning for our sins, Jesus sent us the Counselor, the Spirit of truth, Who convicts us of sin and calls us to repentance and Who works in us through Word and Sacrament to mold us into Jesus’ image. The Holy Spirit keeps us from rebellion and arrogance, and He opens our hearts and minds to God’s will for us and gives us willing spirits to love and obey Him. May we always be open to the Holy Spirit’s guiding and leading.

IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Teacher Appreciation

By Valerie Winston

Over the course of my years in the teaching ministry I have heard many comments about teachers and the teaching profession, some negative and some positive. I often marvel at the negative ones because I wish the person saying that comment could spend just a few moments in a classroom and truly experience what a teacher experiences. I also wonder if the negative comments arise because of negative experiences as a student.

As a teacher, I have sometimes received more respect, some awe and some amazement after a parent has chaperoned a trip, helped supervise a party or activity, or visited the classroom for an extended time. It's as if their eyes have finally opened to what our profession is all about.

I once saw this quote about teaching, "Teaching seems to require the sort of skills one would need to pilot a bus full of live chickens, backwards, with no brakes, down a rocky road through the Andes while simultaneously providing colorful and informative commentary on the scenery." I thought it was an awesome description.

Over a year ago, we were put into a lockdown situation that led to more respect for teachers and their profession and a greater understanding of how daunting the task of an educator can be. As parents had to take on a greater role in their child's education they got the experience of being in someone else's shoes.

Teacher Appreciation Week occurs every year during the first week of May. This year, more than ever, our teachers need to be appreciated. It has been nothing short of astounding to see just how seriously our teachers and staff take their call to this ministry. It is wondrous and amazing to see the dedication and attention they have taken to help maintain a high standard of education in our school. They deserve so many accolades and much gratitude for what they have been able to accomplish. They have gone way above and beyond the call of duty and they have done it with grace, patience, love, and with a smile. I am grateful and feel so blessed to work with such a phenomenal group of educators.

Please continue to keep our faculty and staff in your prayers and when you see them or as you have opportunity, acknowledge their efforts and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 3 - 7, 2021

A Prayer for Teachers

Dear God,

Grant our teachers an abundance of Your wisdom. Prepare their hearts to welcome and love our loved ones, and may we make sure to show them love and respect in return. Give them grace as they help students who aren't thriving, courage to say what needs to be said, tools and knowledge on how and when to speak love, and strength when they feel weak. When they feel unseen, remind them that no moment goes unnoticed. They are shaping the future in one million small - yet incredibly important - ways every day. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gift of learning they share with our children. Bless them, Lord, and may they see even just a glimpse of how their faithfulness will forever impact generations to come.

Amen.

Order Market Day Today!

Market Day is back and with home direct delivery! Register at www.marketdaylocal.com

Choose Immanuel Christian Academy - Hillside as your organization.



Shop with Scrip - 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 Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for Immanuel. It's that simple! Order Forms are in the church hallway or enroll online: www.shopwithscrip.com Enrollment Code: 9D337C6F55761

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.

May

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 John 3:1-21 | 16 Ephesians 5:1-20 |
| | 17 Ephesians 6:10-20 |
| 2 John 3:22-36 | 18 Romans 8:1-17 |
| 3 John 14:1-14 | 19 Romans 8:18-39 |
| 4 John 14:15-31 | 20 Ezekiel 36:1-15 |
| 5 John 15:18-16:4a | 21 Ezekiel 36:16-38 |
| 6 John 16:4b-15 | 22 Joel 2:28-3:8 |
| 7 John 16:16-33 | |
| 8 2 Corinthians 3:1-18 | Pentecost |
| | 23 Acts 2:1-13 |
| 9 2 Corinthians 4:1-15 | 24 Acts 2:14-36 |
| 10 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10 | 25 Acts 2:37-47 |
| 11 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13 | 26 Acts 11:1-18 |
| 12 Psalm 47 | 27 Acts 17:1-15 |
| Ascension Day | 28 Acts 17:16-34 |
| 13 Acts 1:1-11 | 29 Acts 18:1-17 |
| 14 Acts 1:12-26 | |
| 15 Galatians 5:16-6:10 | 30 Acts 18:18-28 |
| | 31 Romans 12:1-21 |

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 - Nothing to report



May Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 - Sarah Vu | 11 - Bill Redis |
| 6 - Naomi Perez | 14 - J.T Redis |
| 9 - Kristen Karpierz | 19 - Karen Mulvihill |
| 10 - Samantha Hadler | 29 - Marilyn Weeks |

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. Vern Witt
2. Harold Zedler
3. Annetta Zimmerman
4. Ron & Barb Arndt
5. Susan Arnold
6. Taylor Balslew
7. Leonard Bartels
8. The Bell Family
9. Jennifer Bettin
10. Jeffrey Bettin
11. Leonard Bettin
12. Karen Bimler
13. The Blair Family
14. Bud & Lois Boese
15. The Bozzi Family
16. Roger Brabant
17. Ruth Anne Brendemuhl
18. Bob Brown
19. Doretha Brown & Rashaad Smith
20. Joe & Lisa Chioda
21. Detrall Dearbone
22. The Deombeleg Family
23. Laprika Duff & Jayla Pernel
24. Arlene Gasperich
25. The Hadler Family
26. Steve Hadler
27. Steve & Lucretia Hardy
28. Evelyn Haynes
29. Corinne Hein
30. The Hempel Family
31. Violet Horn

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					April 30th 6:30pm - Movie Night The Chosen	1 - 11am - 1pm PYHT Food Pantry
2 - Script Orders Due 9:30am Worship with HC followed by Special Voters Meeting in	3 Dayschool Commission Meeting	4 3pm Faculty Meeting 6pm Elders Meeting	5 6pm Stewardship Meeting	6	7	8 - 9am - Noon OSH Garden Work Day
9 - Mothers day 9:30am Worship followed by Bible Study in the Sanctuary	10 Church Council Meeting Budget	11	12	13	14 - NO SCHOOL 11am - 1pm - Mobile pantry at Immanuel Palatine	15 - 11am - 1pm PYHT Food Pantry
16 - 9:30am Worship with HC followed by Bible Study in the Sanctuary	17 Informer Newsletter Submissions Due	18	19	20	21	22 - 9am - Noon OSH Garden Work Day
23 - 9:30am Worship followed by Bible Study in the Sanctuary	24	25 - Church Council Meeting	26	27	28 - NO SCHOOL	29 - 11am - 1pm PYHT Food Pantry
30 - 9:30am Worship with HC followed by Bible Study in the Sanctuary	31 - NO SCHOOL					

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RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

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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*