

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

April 2023

Volume 18, Issue 10

Glory, Honor, and Praise to Jesus!

Grace and peace to you from our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This is the most special time of year for Christians around the world as we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil. We love celebrations and there is no greater celebration than Easter Morning. Of course, the week prior to this celebration (Holy Week) and the several weeks before help prepare us for this beautiful day. I encourage you to review the schedule for Holy Week. These special days will bring you closer to your Savior as you enter the critical moments prior to His sacrificial death and burial for all people.

Like every year throughout the season of Lent, we prepare ourselves for Easter Morning by focusing on repentance. Our sermon series for midweek worship, "Honest Repentance," was part of that preparation. If you were not able to be present in church for that series you can always watch them on demand on our YouTube channel (a total of six).

Our Lenten preparation and repentance deepen during Holy Week as we focus on the events of Jesus' life. Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. This is also called the Sunday of the Passion.

On Holy (Maundy) Thursday, we give thanks to Jesus for the institution of His Supper. This service closes with the stripping of the altar. This reminds us of how our Lord stripped to the waist to wash His disciples' feet—and how He was stripped and beaten before His crucifixion.

Good Friday is the most solemn of all days in the Christian Church. We remember that on account of our sin Jesus was crucified and died. We also give thanks to God that the punishment we deserve falls on Jesus and not on us. We are now ready to celebrate all that Jesus has done for us on Easter Morning.

There are many Sunday morning services in the Christian Church but none are as festive or exciting as Easter Morning. We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Jesus conquers death by rising from the grave. This is a victory celebration for all Christians—a time for us to boldly proclaim our faith in our risen and victorious Savior—"Alleluia! Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Holy Week and Easter Morning services this month. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to these special worship services. We all need to hear about God's love demonstrated in the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the Fellowship and Love of God,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg



A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Private & Online Donations: \$ 475.00 Pending Grant Applications: (12) New Grants Written this Month (2)

Grant Awards: 0

PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:

<u>In-Kind Food Donations Received:</u> Costco, EYFP, Sysco, Westchester FP, Peoples Resource Center, Norman Distribution, Holy Apostles Greek Church, Lombard FP.

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served: Sat 3/11 361 Individuals/103 Families

PYHT-Friday Food Pantry: Families

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served:

Westchester Food Pantry, St. Paul-Oak Lawn, Elmhurst Food Pantry, Leyden Township FP, Village of Hillside, Lombard FP, Tabor Lutheran Church-Chgo, Immanuel Bartlett, Breakfast With Baby, Downers Grove Soup Kitchen, Lyons Church, Chicago Heights Food Pantry.

Volunteer Stipends Paid Out \$225

NEWS: Volunteer Opportunities!

Every 2nd Saturday from 9:30-12:30 & most Fridays from 9:30-12:30. **Shine Event:** *Friday, April 14th 9:30-12:30 Special Food Distribution Event & Giveaways*

FREE Friday Farmstand: Beginning in April we are hoping to offer fresh produce for families in need, please pray for continued fresh produce donations and an abundant community garden harvest.

Volunteers Needed, Special Projects: 1) To coordinate and assemble a food pantry training manual / 2) Food Ministry Expansion Project Fundraiser Chairperson for special event. Event Ideas Needed!

PYHT is seeking official Executive Board Members: Nominations for the position of President, Secretary, VP of Fundraising and Communications are currently open. Candidates for all positions should be familiar with food ministry operations and our Church Mission. Ideal candidates will offer unique insights and input in future program development, especially those that deal with serving minorities, people of color and immigrant communities.

Volunteer of the Month: Gay Svec -

THANK YOU Gay, for picking up Panera Bread donations every Thursday for 2 straight years! Our Panera Dough-Nation report 2022 results: 6,718 pieces of Bread/Bakery, \$21,000 Retail Value, over 4,000 lbs.



EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE: Deposit has been made on the pantry building, awaiting engineered drawings and schematics for permit applications before ground preparations for foundation can be made. A minimum of \$60,000 is still needed to complete the building



with insulation, interior build, electrical, plumbing, flooring, fixtures, and misc. We're currently seeking bids on contracted services.

PLEASE PRAY FOR CONTINUED GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FOR OUR MINISTRY EXPANSION PROJECT.



Becoming Money Wise

Whether God gives us little money or lots of it, we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, are to manage it wisely. In order to have a proper attitude toward money and to handle it wisely, we need to ask God to make us money wise. This wisdom comes from God Who enables us to understand that money is a tool to provide for our own needs, the needs of others, and to help spread the Gospel, so people can "be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Following God's wisdom, we seek to use all of our wealth in ways that give Him glory.

Even with God's wisdom, money issues will cause life to be challenging and confusing. Because we live in a fallen world, God's wisdom will not eliminate setbacks, problems, and disappointments with our money, but we know that He is in control and provides for us. He will help us make proper choices and decisions with our money. With His wisdom, we see things more clearly. "I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness" (Proverbs 4:11). We see a greater purpose for our lives and money. No wonder Solomon wrote in Proverbs 3:13-14, "Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold."

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can become money wise.

WHEN WE HAVE GOD'S WISDOM, WE WILL SHOW IT IN HOW WE LIVE.

"Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom" (James 3:13).



Giving is an act of trust.

Whom or What Are You Trusting? Lack of trust is a major hindrance to our growth as stewards. Do we trust ourselves, someone else, or things rather than God? If our trust is misdirected, our fellowship with God will suffer, and we will not be fruitful stewards. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on

Stewardship Corner

We live in a world that is ever changing, chaotic, sinful, and evil. All people who live outside of a relationship with Jesus follow the wisdom of the world, which "is folly with God" (1 Corinthians 3:19). Through the in-dwelling work of the Holy Spirit, we seek to follow God's wisdom. God's wisdom is from God, and it honors Him. As God's people, we view life from His perspective, and we strive to please Him rather than ourselves. When we walk in the fear of the Lord and live accordingly, we will rely on God's wisdom in the matters of everyday living and make whatever changes need to be made in light of God's Word. We are still sinful people, but, as forgiven people, we know that God is always with us, grants us His wisdom, guidance, and protection.

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IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Knowledge and Understanding By Valerie Winston

I had the opportunity to spend some time with the 3rd and 4th grade class recently. It's interesting to see the change in the dynamics of learning and growth as the students transition from one grade or one classroom to the next. The enthusiasm for learning is still present, just as it was in the 1st and 2nd grade room. However, the students are more aware of just what that learning means and how it is important for their growth.

As with all the classes the students have been able to tell me all the things that they are learning and what subjects they like the most. Mr. Hempel found it interesting that his class said that they liked Math, but don't seem to express that enthusiasm during class. They also have a great love for Art class. They like learning different designs and how they can create beautiful and colorful work. They feel that it teaches them to be creative.

They enjoy having Mr. Hempel as a teacher. They say he is very nice, funny, plays with them at recess and he is himself. I am not sure what that means. They also said that sometimes his temperature rises. I am sure what that means.

They enjoy being at Immanuel quite a bit. They feel that all the students and teachers are nice and that they are learning a lot of new things and are learning more than they would anywhere else. They feel safe at Immanuel and feel like this is home. They also enjoy having pizza every Friday.

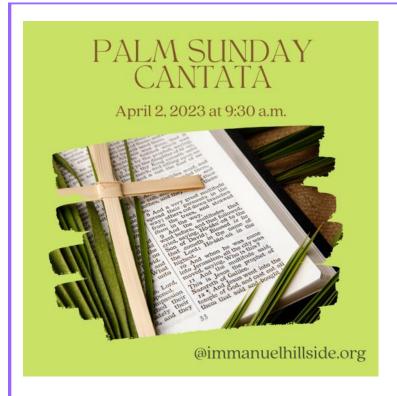
I enjoyed hearing how they felt they were becoming closer to God and liked praying. They enjoy chapel, choir, and visiting church when they sing on Sundays. They have learned about repentance and feel that they have grown in their faith and have become better Christians. They also feel that it is important to spread the Gospel.

Proverbs 2:6 says, "For the Lord gives wisdom, from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding." These young students have certainly gained much knowledge and understanding in their time at Immanuel, especially in their relationship to God. One of the students said, most aptly, after another student spoke about being able to go to chapel, "Amen!"



IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NOTHING BUNDT CAKES FUNDRAISER

FORMS ARE LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE RETURN ORDER FORMS AND PAYMENT TO THE CHURCH / SCHOOL BY APRIL 28TH. EACH BUNDTLET IS \$7.00 AND ALL FUNDS BENEFIT ICA'S PARENT TEACHER LEAGUE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!









Join us after worship on Easter Sunday for a Do-it-Yourself Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. Please bring a breakfast dish to share.

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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 Psalm 31	14 Romans 1:1-17
Palm/Passion Sunday	15 Romans 3:21-31
2 Matthew 21:1-22	16 Romans 4:1-12
3 Matthew 21:23-46	17 Romans 4:13-25
4 Matthew 26:1-35	18 Romans 5:1-21
5 Matthew 26:36-75	19 Romans 6:1-14
Maundy Thursday	20 Romans 6:15-23
6 Matthew 27:1-26	21 Romans 15:1-13
Good Friday	22 Romans 15:14-33
7 Matthew 27:27-56	23 1 Peter 1:1-25
8 Matthew 27:57-66	24 1 Peter 2:1-25
Easter Sunday	25 1 Peter 3:1-22
9 Matthew 28:1-20	26 1 Peter 4:1-19
10 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	27 1 Peter 5:1-14
11 1 Corinthians 15:12-34	28 2 Peter 1:1-21
12 1 Corinthians 15:35-58	29 2 Peter 2:1-22
13 1 Corinthians 16:1-21	30 2 Peter 3:1-18

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 19 - Luke Svec

5 - Phyllis Ondrovic 20 - David Mannella

6 - Laneta Washington 25 - Miguel Lepe Jr.

8 - Vernon Witt 28 - Heidi Murphy

9 - Miguel Lepe 30 - Viviana Pena

11 - Wayne Valentino

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 red.*

- 1. Pena Family
- 2. Perez Family
- 3. The Perry Family
- 4. Lynn Rand
- 5. Susan Redis
- 6. Gloria Rubietta
- 7. The Ruffin Family
- 8. Joan Rundgren
- 9. The Shannon Family
- 10. Karen Sierawski
- 11. The Sims Family
- 12. Jayne Siou
- 13. Skinner Family
- 14. Smith Family
- 15. Daniel Stallings
- 16. Rita Stallings
- 17. Starks-Smith Family
- 18. Svec Family
- 19. Swims Family
- 20. Thomas Family
- 21. Lisa Tipples
- 22. Tucker Smith Family
- 23. Thurman Family
- 24. Lance Turner
- 25. Wayne & Debbie Valentino
- 26. Thy & Sarah Vu
- 27. Patricia Washington
- 28. Marilyn Weeks
- 29. Randy & Michelle Weeks
- 30. Welch Family



April 2023

L'appu

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Scrip orders due on April 2nd					Community Garden Work Day 9am - Noon
2 - Palm Sunday 3 9:30am Cantata 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Bible Study	4	5 3pm Faculty Meeting 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	6-Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Service with Holy Communion	7 - Good Friday NO SCHOOL 7:00pm Tenebrae Service	8 PYHT Food Pantry
9 - Easter Sunday 9:30am Worship with Holy Comm. 10:30am Egg Hunt and Coffee Hour	No School Easter Break	12 No School Easter Break	13 No School Easter Break	14 - No School Easter Break 9:30am SHINE Food Distribution 7pm Adult Volleyball	15
16 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Bible Study	sumes	19 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	20	21 All School Fun & Field Trip	22 Community Garden Work Day 9am - Noon
23 - Choir Sings / 24 Open House Sunday 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Bible Study	25	26 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	27	28 Fine Arts Fest 7 pm Adult Volleyball	29
30 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:15am Bible Study				April Showers Bring May Flowers	Flewers (Flewers)

2317 - 2329 South Wolf Road Hillside, IL 60162

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RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

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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