



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.*

Immanuel Informer

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## Nailed It!

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14)

**A perfect 10. A clean sweep. A flawless victory. People aspire to but seldom achieve these goals. To do exactly what you set out to do in exactly the way you want to do it is simply perfection. And that is how Jesus Christ accomplished His mission to earn our salvation: perfectly.**

**He recruited the disciples He wanted, was baptized into the sins of the sinners He came to save—all of us—preached the message He wanted to preach, lived the sinless life He needed to live, and rode into the city where He chose to die. He embraced His Father's will to suffer, be crucified, and proclaim His victory in hell. Then He followed that up with a perfect ending: rising from the dead, showing His glory, and ascending into heaven. Flawless victory.**

**And that victory is now ours through Baptism into Christ, where we are marked, buried, and raised with Him. Those very sins that corrupted and condemned us were stripped from us and taken by Christ, who nailed them to the cross. He nailed it, and we receive the reward.**

**This is what the Season of Lent and the Time of Easter are all about. Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>, yes, Valentines Day. Let us begin this season of repentance by focusing on how Jesus nailed it for us. We will continue gathering each Wednesday thereafter with a meal at 6pm and worship at 7pm. We will meditate on St. John's Passion of Christ written in John chapters 18-19. I look forward to our time together as we prepare for Christ's victory on Easter Sunday.**

**In His Service,**

**Pastor Deombeleg**

# Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

## Channels of God's Love

Benjamin Franklin, one of our country's founding fathers, developed a challenging habit. Every day of his adult life, he set aside time to examine two questions. In the morning, he asked himself, "What good shall I do today?" As the day drew to a close, his question was: "What good have I done today?"

As Christians, it is easy to relate to Franklin's attitude because a common theme throughout God's Word is that we are to share God's love within us with others as we help and serve them. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are called to love others as we love ourselves. In his letter to the church in Galatia, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith*" (Galatians 6:10). God has created, forgiven, and redeemed us, and we become His instruments of love and compassion in the world. God blesses us so we can serve Him by serving others. He honors us with the privilege of being the channels through which He works.

We are blessed to be a blessing. God wants us to be His channels who live in total devotion to Him and are His faithful stewards. He empowers us to do the "*good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (Ephesians 2:10). The same strength that was available to Paul is available to us. As the Apostle Paul wrote the people in Philippi, "*I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13). God is our source of strength. Through our weakness, God is able to display His divine power. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can make the serving of others a priority in our lives.

## GIVE FROM THE HEART



FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIVING  
HONORS CHRIST'S LORDSHIP

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine." 2 Corinthians 8:8

## WHEN WE GIVE TO THE NEEDY AND THE POOR, WE ARE GIVING UNTO THE LORD.

"I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you clothed Me... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me."  
(Matthew 25:36-40)

Psalm 31:15 reads, "*My times are in Your hands...*" All the time we have is a gift from God, and we are to be faithful stewards with His time. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will not get so wrapped up in ourselves and the ways of the world that we foolishly waste our time. Living wisely includes proper time for worship, time for service to others, and time for self-improvement and enrichment. "*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of time, because the days are evil*" (Ephesians 5:15-16). Whether God gives us long or short lives, our goal is to please Him by using our time faithfully.

## Lenten Sermon Series



Join us this Lenten season, as we consider the Passion of our Lord Jesus from the Gospel of John. We will hear John 18-19, Jesus' betrayal and arrest, Jesus facing Annas and Caiaphas, Jesus before Pilate, Jesus delivered, Jesus crucified, and Jesus' death and burial. We'll especially consider the divine majesty and glory of Jesus that's hidden under his suffering and death. We pray that God the Holy Spirit would, by this meditation, imprint the image of Christ crucified in our minds and hearts and on our consciences.

Ash Wednesday: The Powerless "I Am," John 18:1-11

Midweek 2: Two Interrogations, John 18:12-27

Midweek 3: What Kind of King Is This? John 18:28-40

Midweek 4: Whom Do We Follow? John 19:1-16a

Midweek 5: Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross, John 19:16b-27

Midweek 6: Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation, John 19:28-42



While we wait for the spring sunshine, the garden is being planned out, seeds and fertilizer are being ordered and we continue to work the kinks out of our indoor gardening scheme. That last part is way more difficult than the YouTube videos portray, but we're nailing it down to an exercise in science and engineering. While we've had success, there has been a lack of consistency and that's where our focus is now.

One of the issues we've had over the years is poor communication. We have been making more frequent updates through the Informer and this year we will implement signupgenius.com. Signup Genius will allow members to sign up for workdays, plant sales and more and will allow volunteers to directly communicate with the garden. The links below will lead you to our first effort in that direction. One is for some current volunteer slots and the other is for our spring plant sale. If you're interested in some early work opportunities or would like to sign up for some veggie starts, please follow the links below.

Volunteer

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CABA822ABFDC16-47360126-volunteer>

Plant Sale

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CABA822ABFDC16-47359984-garden>



# Put Your Hands Together

*A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church*



**Private & Online Donations: \$ 3,128.75**

**Pending Grant Applications: (0)**

**Grant Awards: None**

**PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:**

In-Kind Food Donations / Food Rescue Received:

42,392 Lbs.

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

Saturday 12/29 to 1/20 (208 Families 590/Individuals)

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

Westchester Food Pantry, St. Paul - Oak Lawn, Downers Grove Soup Kitchen, St. Matthews Soup Kitchen, BEDS+, Interim Housing Center - Downers Grove, Our Lady of Angels - Chicago, North Berwyn Food Pantry, Chicago Heights Food Pantry, Fight2Feed, Elmhurst Food Pantry, Immanuel - Des Plaines, Breakfast with Baby, Lyons Church, Abundant Children & Family Service Agency, Lombard FP, York Township FP, NEW.

**NEWS:**

In June, Immanuel's Food Ministries will begin their 5<sup>th</sup> year of service! Thanks, and praise to God!

**NEW-PYHT Video:**

Thank you video <https://youtu.be/mrStuzwAB-0>

**Pantry Meeting: Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Midwest Food Bank: Volunteers are needed to help make the monthly pickups on the first Monday of every month, beginning in March. Pickup of U-Haul truck required.** For February, we have chosen a "pre-load" food donation from MFB, to see if this can save us some time.

**Pantry Record Keeping-New Contractual Rules and Registration Requirements:** Becoming an agency member of the Midwest Food Bank requires us to institute new changes. Changes will be discussed further in the Jan 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and copies in writing will be given to volunteers for review and implementation.

**Volunteers:**

We are always grateful for the wonderful volunteers, Carol, Karen, Tina, Trina, Bill, Ron, Barb, Randy, Dave, Gay, Donn, Connie, Sue, Susan, Scott, Mike, Julie, Lynn, Grace, Eddie, Tommy, Evan, Marilyn, Rita, Becky, Paul, Pastor Steve, Alicia, Sarah, Tom & Joanna. **Heartfelt gratitude to Heather Hempel and Ed Mulvihill**, for never failing to come to the rescue and generously supporting the needs of the pantry and the families we serve.

**Expansion Project Update:**

Unfortunately, no new grant awards have come through this year for the expansion project, we will continue fundraising and seeking other options for funding. Details will be explained in the upcoming meeting 1/28/24.





# IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## God is Good

Valerie Winston

While writing a recent email I accidentally typed in “God morning”. When I saw it, I paused and wondered what it would be like if we substituted God for good in other phrases and greetings. What if we told people to have a God day? We if we said we were in a God mood, or said God for you? As a child I would hear people say Gesundheit when someone sneezed. Gesundheit is German for “good health to you”. What if we said God health to you instead? I had an uncle that whenever he left our house he would say, “I’m gonna’ see you good people”. What if he said God people?

I can’t imagine what kind of day we would all have if we substituted “good greetings” with “God greetings”. We know that God is good. God always acts in a way that is true, noble, right and good. Goodness is a part of His nature. His intentions and motivations are always good. The outcome of His plan is always good. We say that God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

Wishing God’s goodness on others is something that we regularly do as Christians. We do say God bless you, and not just when someone sneezes. And we do wish for good to happen to others. God’s goodness extends from His nature to everything that He does. Let us continue to wish “good greetings” and “God greetings” to others. Psalm 23:6 says “May God’s goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life.”

God is Good  
all the  
time

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.

## February - Love

- 1 Psalm 33
- 2 Psalm 136
- 3 Psalm 138

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 4 John 3:1–21
- 5 John 3:22–36
- 6 John 4:1–26
- 7 John 4:27–42
- 8 John 4:43–54
- 9 John 5:1–18
- 10 John 5:19–47

Transfiguration of our Lord

- 11 John 6:1–24
- 12 John 6:25–59
- 13 John 6:60–71

Ash Wednesday

- 14 Psalm 51
- 15 Psalm 57

- 16 Psalm 107

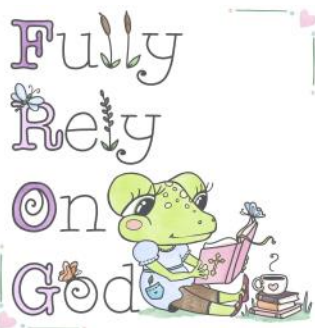
- 17 Psalm 108

First Sunday in Lent

- 18 John 7:1–24
- 19 John 7:25–52
- 20 John 8:1–11
- 21 John 8:12–30
- 22 John 8:31–59
- 23 John 9:1–12
- 24 John 9:13–41

Second Sunday in Lent

- 25 John 10:1–21
- 26 John 10:22–42
- 27 John 11:1–27
- 28 John 11:28–44
- 29 John 13:1–35



**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.

## 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. Dot Schneider
2. *Sims / Lang Family*
3. *Sims Family*
4. *Skinner Family*
5. *Smith Family*
6. Rita Stallings
7. *Steele Family*
8. *Stewart Family*
9. *Swims Family*
10. Svec Family
11. *Thomas Family*
12. *Thurman Family*
13. Lisa Tipples
14. *Torres - Ortega Family*
15. Lance Turner
16. Wayne & Debbie Valentino
17. Thy & Sarah Vu
18. Patricia Washington
19. Marilyn Weeks
20. Randy & Michelle Weeks
21. Welch Family
22. Dorothy Westphal
23. *Whittaker / Stevens Family*
24. Philbert Wilcox Sr.
25. Philbert Wilcox Jr.
26. *Williams Family*
27. Brett Willis
28. Valerie Winston
29. Tina Alicea

**For the Record**  
**Nothing to report**

## February Birthdays

- 1 - Donn Hempel
- 1 - Jeffrey Bettin
- 2 - *Zion Smith, 7th Grade*
- 4 - Joanna Czubernat
- 5 - *Bella Gerard, PreK*
- 7 - *Raniya Gipson, 6th Grade*



- 10 - Barb Arndt
- 17 - Evelyn Haynes
- 19 - Bryanna Ortiz
- 21 - Rev. Steve Simon
- 28 - *Noah Johnson, 1st Grade*





# February 2024



**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

<p>“We need to pledge ourselves anew to the cause of Christ. We must capture the spirit of the early church. Wherever the early Christians went, they made a triumphant witness for Christ. Whether on the village streets or in the city jails, they daringly proclaimed the good news of the gospel.” Martin Luther King, Jr.</p>	<p>1 8 4pm - A WAY Varsity Basketball Game @Elmhurst</p>	<p>2 5pm - A WAY Varsity Basketball Game @Timley Park</p>	<p>3 10 - 11 am Food Pantry</p> 
<p>4 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study</p>	<p>5 11 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study <i>1pm Commit Dance Event in Gym</i></p>	<p>6 4pm - HOME Varsity Basketball Game</p>	<p>7 8:15 a.m. Chapel 3pm Faculty Meeting 6PM Stewardship Mtg 7:30 Adult Choir</p>
<p>8 11 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study <i>1pm Commit Dance Event in Gym</i></p>	<p>9 7pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<p>10 7pm Adult Volleyball</p>	<p>11 10 - 11 am Food Pantry</p>
<p>12 19 - Presidents' Day NO SCHOOL Winter Break</p>	<p>13 - Spring Pictures 4pm - A WAY Varsity Basketball Game @LaGrange 6pm PTL Meeting 6pm Church Council</p>	<p>14 - Ash Wednesday 1:45pm Chapel with Imposition of Ashes 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service</p>	<p>15 4:30pm - HOME Varsity Basketball Game</p>
<p>13 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study</p>	<p>14 21 - 1:45 Chapel 4:30 pm - A WAY Varsity Basketball Game @Skokie 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Worship 7:40pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>15 6pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>16 NO SCHOOL Winter Break 7pm Adult Volleyball</p>
<p>14 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Voters Meeting</p>	<p>15 4pm - HOME Varsity Basketball Game</p>	<p>16 March 1st Black History Program 6pm</p>	<p>17 6:00 p.m. Movie Night in the Gym</p>
<p>15 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Voters Meeting</p>	<p>16 1:45pm Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Worship 7:40pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>17 Happy Leap Day! Leap Day!</p> 	<p>18 Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations. Dr. Phil Johnson</p> 

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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*