



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

February 2023

Volume 18, Issue 8

Living with Purpose

We, like most people, enjoy our careers that provide an income to pay for housing, transportation, and other necessities and comforts. We love our families. We try to be good neighbors in our communities, and we make every effort to be upstanding citizens. On the surface, our lives in many ways resemble non-Christians. However, as believers, we live with the awareness that God gives us a purpose that is much more meaningful than having successful careers, being good neighbors, or patriotic citizens.

Through faith, we understand the special purpose that God gives us is to be participants in His mission *"to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10). The Apostle Paul wrote, God *"desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:4). We are His vessels through whom He works. We become His hands, feet, and mouth to share the life-saving Gospel to the world.

Jesus spelled out our purpose: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be My witnesses to the end of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). Speaking to His disciples, Jesus said, *"As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you."* (John 20:21). The Holy Spirit provides the strength and motivation that we need as we are being sent to witness to others. Paul tells us that we have been reconciled with God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16-21) and have been given the ministry of helping others to come to know that peace with God. *"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own possession,"* wrote Peter, *"that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (1 Peter 2:9). In what is referred to as the Great Commission, Jesus said, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20). These verses put an exclamation point in the purpose that God has for our lives. Early in the Gospels, Jesus calls His disciples, and He tells them that they will be fishers of men. The role of the disciples has now passed to us.

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 hear our Lord say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."*

To God be the Glory

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

Lent Begins February 22

Repentance starts with being honest before God and ourselves about who we are. When it comes to sin, everyone has a natural impulse to hide, but repentance means finding the courage to be honest. It also means having faith in the promise of forgiveness. But being honest about faith means recognizing that faith is contested on many sides not only by society, but by our own experiences, and sometimes even by the actions of God himself. Join us every Wednesday in Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. as we begin our sermon series titled "Honest Repentance."



Week 1: Law (Creation: Genesis 1:1–10)

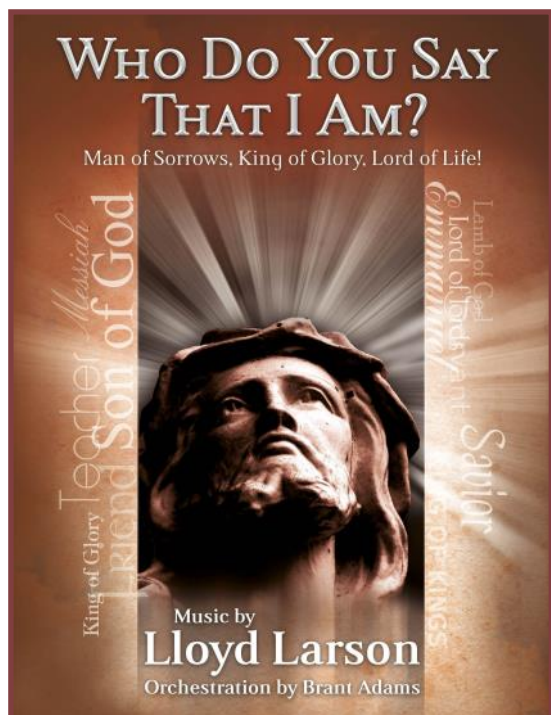
Week 2: Chaos (The Flood: Genesis 7:6–12, 17–21; 8:1)

Week 3: Faith (Abraham and Isaac: Genesis 22:1–18)

Week 4: Repentance (The Repentance of Nineveh: Jonah 3:1–10)

Week 5: Purification (The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace: Daniel 3:13–30)

Week 6: Salvation (The Crossing of the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10–15:1)



Palm Sunday Cantata

Created and composed by Lloyd Larson, "Who Do You Say That I Am?" invites choir, narrators, and congregation to experience anew the earthly life of Jesus, seeing His life, ministry, death, and resurrection through the eyes of front-row participants, whose varied answers to the title question reveal the "Messiah," "Emmanuel," "gifted Teacher," the "miracle Worker," the "King of glory," the "King above all kings," a "Man of sorrows," the "sacrificial Lamb of God," and the "triumphant Lord of life," the "Son of the living God." This extended work, suitable for the Lenten season, will be presented on Palm Sunday. Please join us April 2, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Stewards of God's Creation

"In the beginning, God created..." In these first five words of the Bible, God gives us His first act of grace which is His creation. The Bible affirms that He created the world out of nothing. *"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God"* (Psalm 90:2). Only God has the power to create something out of nothing.

One of the fundamental truths of Christian stewardship is the understanding that everything that exists belongs to God. *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein*" (Psalm 24:1). God lays claim to all living creatures. *"For every beast of the forest is Mine and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is Mine"* (Psalm 50:10-11). God even claims the inanimate objects. *"The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, declares the Lord of hosts"* (Haggai 2:8). All creation belongs to God the Creator.

As God's stewards, we must never forget that God has given us a position of responsibility to care for His creation. Because He has entrusted us with this responsibility, we are accountable for how we manage what He entrusts to us. In order for us to be the faithful stewards that God wants us to be, we need to keep the perspective that God is the creator and owner of all things and we are His managers. When our purpose is to honor and please the Lord with our lives and resources, we will hear Him say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:21).

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IS THE PART GOD ALLOWS EACH OF US TO PLAY IN CARRYING FORWARD HIS PLAN OF SALVATION.

"All this is from God, Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation"
(2 Corinthians 5:18).



"You can live on less when you have more to live for"
(Leslie B. Flynn).

Stewardship Corner

We could say that a contented person sees his cup half-full rather than half-empty. Do your actions indicate that you are content? The Apostle Paul had learned the secret of contentment, for he realized that, in every circumstance, he was in his Father's hands. He had been at the point of death several times. He had suffered much, yet he said, *"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstance"* (Philippians 4:11). He found that contentment involves learning to love God and to trust in His will regardless of the circumstances in which he found himself. When we abide in Christ through Word and Sacrament, we find contentment. Realizing and recognizing what we have (the presence of God), rather than lamenting what we lack (nothing if we have Christ), brings us contentment.

Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hillside

Private & Online Donations: \$ 586
 Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox
 Church Food Drive - 250lbs of food
 this month
 Pending Grant Applications: (2)
 Grant Awards: None this Month

Distributions & Activity:

In-Kind Food Donations Received:

Costco, EYFP, Michael Lewis Co.,
 Sysco, Elmwood Park Community
 Church.

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families

Served: 103 Saturday 1/14

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Individuals

Served: 342 Saturday 1/14

PYHT-Friday Food Pantry:

Families (as of 1/20) 55

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served:

Westchester Food Pantry, St. Paul -
 Oak Lawn, Elmhurst Food Pantry,
 Leyden Township FP, Elmwood Park
 Panty, Village of Hillside, Lombard
 FP, Chicago Heights Food Pantry,
 Fight2Feed, Tabor Lutheran Church-
 Chgo.

Volunteer Stipends Paid Out: \$200

NEWS: Great Food Donations:

Thanks to Sysco for the wonderful donations we received this month of eggs, ground beef, chicken wings, and beverages. God answered our prayer after months of empty and unplugged freezers! Glory be to God while we continue to impact the community. Thanks also to Elmhurst Food Pantry for food donations and allowing us to purchase Holiday Hams, Turkeys, Meal boxes and other foods.

Expansion Project Update: We're moving forward with the expansion project and waiting on an updated estimate from Big Buildings, the manufacturer and installer of the pantry building. Once a new estimate is received, a new budget plan will be created and fundraising to resume. The next step is to purchase the blueprints needed to plan the construction phases which requires a non - refundable deposit on the building. Second step is to confirm the building and foundation size by staking/taping off the area, (weather permitting). Updated estimates still needed for electrical, plumbing, solar panel installation and construction of walk-in cooler. Because of the rising costs of everything, especially construction materials, it's important to make sure we have enough funding to begin.

Small Business Loan: Inland Bank Agreed to consider a small business loan to the pantry to enable the commencement of construction. This needs to be discussed and options reviewed.

Volunteers: Thank you all, everyone is appreciated for the many hours and hard labor you put into this ministry throughout the year. I cannot thank you enough for the joy of serving with you and the fellowship in Christ. Thanks to Donn Hempel, Gay Svec and their students (1-4 grade) for helping set-up for pantry days.

NID SHINE EVENT: Friday, April 14 at 9:30am - 1pm Family Food Distribution, We are looking for volunteers that have never helped on pantry day before.

WINTER FOOD PANTRY DATES

SATURDAY
 FEBRUARY 11 & MARCH 11
 AT 11:00 A.M.

Non-Perishable
 donations can be
 dropped off at the
 church on Friday's
 & Sundays from
 9am - Noon



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

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 Raise Right Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for Immanuel. It's that simple! Order Forms are in the church narthex or you can **enroll online**: www.shopwithscrip.com
Enrollment Code:
 9D337C6F55761



Immanuel Christian Academy

Out of the Mouths of Babes

By Valerie Winston

About a week ago I was able to visit in the First and Second grade classroom. When I left, I kept thinking of the phrase “out of the mouths of babes”. It’s an idiom to describe how sometimes you get some unexpectedly great wisdom, from those who are very young, or you wouldn’t think would have such great wisdom.

I certainly heard some great wisdom from these wonderfully smart young people. It would seem that their favorite subject is Math. It’s their favorite subject because they say it’s the easiest. They are learning about trains and locomotives and especially love doing projects. They are currently traveling around the world and collecting stamps for their passports.

According to the students, the best part about being in their classroom is no school on the weekends, watching movies, and having Fantastic Fridays. That’s when Mrs. Svec brings treats and board games. However, they have to earn it by doing good things. One of the students told me that they don’t get homework. After a long pause, the student added, “on Wednesdays”.

One of their favorite places to be in the classroom is Mrs. Svec’s desk. They like to hug her. They love her very much. They think she is very smart, funny, nice, kind, helps them with their work, and loves them. They love being at Immanuel because they like to have recess at our park, they like the learning, and they think it’s a good school. They also like the church.

Matthew 21:16 says “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, ‘from the lips of children and infants, you Lord, have called forth your praise.’” Jesus was quoting Psalm 8: 2 which says, “Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger.” God is so strong and great that he can derive praise even from infants and children.

The children at Immanuel have learned so many things, but it is always so joyous to hear just how much they love learning. It is especially joyous to hear how much they love learning at Immanuel and how much they love learning about God. Out of the mouths of these amazing babes have come much knowledge and much truth. They are a true testament to God’s love, goodness, and His strength and greatness.

Immanuel Christian Academy Annual Fund

We have received \$1140 in donations for the annual fund. There is still an opportunity to help our school. If you are able, please visit: <https://onrealm.org/ilchillside/give/appeal2022> or mail a check to the school office. We will continue to update you on the progress of the Annual Appeal. Thank you for your support!

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

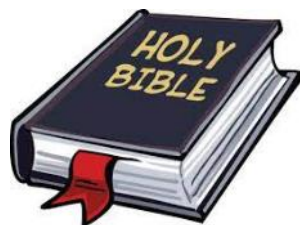
Getting the Most Out of Your Daily Bible Reading

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

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Leviticus 19:1-18 | Ash Wednesday |
| 2 Deuteronomy 5:1-22 | 22 Matthew 4:1-11 |
| 3 Deuteronomy 6:1-25 | 23 Matthew 4:12-25 |
| 4 Deuteronomy 7:1-11 | 24 Psalm 23 |
| 5 Deuteronomy 7:12-26 | 25 Psalm 33 |
| 6 Colossians 1:1-23 | First Sunday in Lent |
| 7 Colossians 1:24—2:5 | 26 Psalm 50 |
| 8 Colossians 2:6-19 | 27 Psalm 51 |
| 9 Colossians 2:20—3:17 | 28 Psalm 52 |
| 10 Colossians 3:18—4:6 | |
| 11 Colossians 4:7-18 | |
| 12 John 3:1-21 | |
| 13 John 3:22-36 | |
| 14 1 John 1:1—2:6 | |
| 15 1 John 2:7-29 | |
| 16 1 John 3:1-24 | |
| 17 1 John 4:1-21 | |
| 18 1 John 5:1-21 | |
| 19 2 John | |
| 20 3 John | |
| 21 Jude 1-25 | |

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.

1. Lisa Gasperich
2. Stella Gonzalez
3. The Hadler Family
4. Steve Hadler
5. Steve & Lucretia Hardy
6. Evelyn Haynes
7. Corinne Hein
8. The Hempel Family
9. The Honey Family
10. Violet Horn
11. Sandra Houle
12. The Iacovetti Family
13. Dorothy Ivers
14. The Karpierz Family
15. Clyde & Omie Lane
16. Becky Lelings
17. The Lepe Family
18. The Mannella Family
19. Carolyn Marco
20. Len & Susan Mazanek
21. Scott Mazanek
22. Ed & Karen Mulvihill
23. Heidi Murphy
24. Kathy Nelson
25. Lynda Nickl
26. Mike & Carol Northcutt
27. Mindy Ondrovic
28. Phyllis Ondrovic

February Birthdays

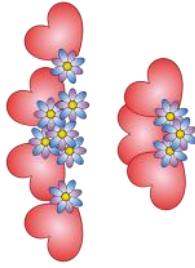
- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Donn Hempel | 7 - Raniya Gipson |
| 1 - Jeffrey Bettin | 10 - Barb Arndt |
| 2 - Zion Smith | 17 - Evelyn Haynes |
| 4 - Joanna Czubernat | 24 - Carolyn Barry |
| 5 - Londyn Marsh | |

For the Record

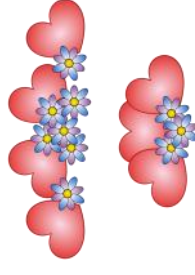
Deaths



January 10 - Virginia Mazanek





February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	6	7	8 3:00 p.m. Faculty Meeting	9 2 - Groundhog Day Varsity Basketball Game @ Elmhurst 	10—Pizza Friday Varsity Basketball Game @ LaGrange	11 8am—11am Savers donation drop-off in the school parking lot
12 <i>Scrip Orders Due</i> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	13	14—Valentine's Day School Spring Pictures and Graduation Pictures 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	15	16 NO SCHOOL Winter Break	17—NO SCHOOL Winter Break 7pm Adult Volleyball	18
19 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	20 NO SCHOOL Winter Break President's Day	21 Varsity Basketball Game HOME	22 - Ash Wednesday 8:15am Chapel with imposition of Ashes 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship with imposition of Ashes	23 Varsity Basketball Game @ Bensenville	24— Pizza Friday <i>End of 2nd Trimester</i> 6pm Black History Program	25
26 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Voter's Meeting	27 Indoor Skating Week Begins	28 Varsity Basketball Game HOME				

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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, Administration Assistant

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708-562-5580 ext. 200

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music

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Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 205

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Valerie Winston, Principal

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Celebrating 170 Years of Christian Education