

# **Immanuel Informer**

## Come and See

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!*

*Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!*

*Know that the Lord, he is God!*

*It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,*

*and his courts with praise!*

*Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

*For the Lord is good;*

*his steadfast love endures forever,*

*and his faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100*

In 2019 Immanuel Lutheran Church celebrated its 160th Anniversary. We made a joyful noise to the Lord for His faithfulness to all the generations of believers who call Immanuel their home. God was gracious in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the city of Hillside. For one hundred sixty years God has led His people to do marvelous things in His Name. For one hundred sixty years the members of Immanuel have entered His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Praise God that we are part of that history.

The first German immigrants heard God’s call to establish a congregation and gave them a picture of what He could do on this patch of land west of Chicago. They believed in the Lord and were faithful to His call. They trusted in their Creator, in His goodness, His never-ending love, and His faithfulness. Today Immanuel is surrounded by homes and businesses and neighbors with different ethnic backgrounds, educational levels, talents, incomes, and abilities.

Like many churches, the life of the congregation can be illustrated with a bell curve. The congregation begins slowly and over time builds up its membership. It reaches its peak with many activities, ministries, events, etc. The congregation is full of life and energy and is well-known in the community. Then the congregation begins to change direction due to things like demographics, the economy, family dynamics, etc. Membership starts to decline resulting in lower worship attendance, fewer families, fewer ministries and opportunities for growth. Stagnation sets in and the congregation begins to wonder what’s in store for its future. Thank God for His faithfulness in keeping Immanuel church and school alive. But if we are honest with ourselves, we would have to admit that we are following this bell curve illustration.

Fear not brothers and sisters the ship is *not* sinking! But at times I feel as though our compass needs recalibrating. The Lord has great plans for us, but we need to discover what those plans are. Therefore, I have invited an old friend of Immanuel to lend wisdom and insight as we ponder anew what God can do. The Rev. Keith Haney, Missions Facilitator for the Northern Illinois District, will lead us in a Vision Retreat on Saturday February 2, 2019 from 10 am to 12 noon. Come and see what the Good Shepherd can do with the sheep of His pasture. Come and learn how to do great things for the Lord and serve Him with gladness both now and for future generations of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

In the Fellowship and Love of God,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

## BABY BOTTLES ARE BACK

Coins for Caring Network is a simple way for Immanuel to raise awareness of their ministry and at the same time raise needed funds. Members and school families can take the bottles home and be a part of this life-saving work by simply filling them with spare change. Return your coin filled baby bottle by March 3. Bottles and information about Caring Network Pregnancy Services are located in the narthex.



February offering envelopes includes one labeled "Flower Fund". Contributing \$5, \$10, or any amount to this Fund will allow more fresh flower bouquets to be displayed on the altar throughout the year. If you would like to donate by check it should be made payable to *Immanuel Altar Guild*. Your donation will be credited on your church contributions statement. Remember, as a "thank you" you are welcome to take a bouquet any time the flowers are identified as being purchased using Flower Fund contributions. Thank you.

**New Bible Study!** Get ready for a weekly Bible Study designed specifically for the Ladies of Immanuel! Kick-off is Wednesday, February 6th at 10:30am. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Steve.



The Thrivent Choice® program encourages benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Members make their recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches. If you have a qualifying Thrivent account, please consider directing funds to Immanuel! Call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" or visit: <http://bit.ly/XJrPZN>.

### **"The Moses Controversy"**

**Rocked by questions about his faith, award-winning investigative filmmaker Timothy Mahoney seeks scientific evidence that Moses actually wrote the first books of the Bible —despite the skepticism of mainstream scholars. <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/patterns-of-evidence-the-moses-controversy>**

**AMC Yorktown**

**80 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, IL 60148-5529**

**Thursday March 14, 6:30 pm**

**Saturday March 16, 12:55 pm**

**Tuesday March 19, 6:30 pm**

***They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42***

## Serving God as Stewards

Do we really want to be stewards? No! By nature, we are independent, self-centered people. Our first impulse is that we want to be the owners. We want to have possession of things. We want to be important, to be respected, and even to be envied. We are not born stewards. However, by His grace, God transforms us into stewards who seek to follow His ways rather than our own. With changed hearts, we embrace His love and plan for our lives. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we surrender our desires and plans to serve Him. God empowers us to put aside our need to be owners who are in control as we become His faithful stewards who seek to do His will. The love of Christ controls us. Transformed, we worship the Lord and live lives of faith, love, and obedience rather than living for ourselves.

As the Holy Spirit works in us through Word and Sacrament, transforming us into the image of Christ, we, in turn, will express more of His character. When we believe that God is present in our lives and trust in His power, we will, through **faith, apply God's teachings to our lives.**

**As God's people, we can live unselfishly because of God's giving.** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..."* (John 3:16). The love of God empowers us to respond faithfully to His love and grace. We learn to love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). We learn to give because God first gave to us. Being a faithful steward is love in action. As Dr. Stephen F. Olford, a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Christian leader, said,

Christ alone owns our eyes to view His world. He alone owns our hands to serve His will. He alone owns our feet to walk His way. He alone owns our minds to think His thoughts. He alone owns our hearts to love Him fervently. He alone owns our personalities to radiate His charm and glory. Failure to recognize this is a refusal to recognize His sovereignty.



## A Month of Prayer

The Fellowship of Prayer consists of caring people who pray daily for members in the church. Members will be listed in alphabetical order each month. Please pray for their known and unknown needs.

1. Trevor Anderson
2. Ron & Barb Arndt
3. Susan Arnold
4. The Balslew Family
5. Carolyn Barry
6. Leonard Bartels
7. Evelyn Becker
8. The Bell Family
9. Jeffrey Bettin
10. Jennifer Bettin
11. Leonard Bettin
12. Don & Karen Bimler
13. The Blair Family
14. Bud & Lois Boese
15. Elaine Boettcher
16. The Bozzi Family
17. Roger Brabant
18. Ruth Anne Brendenmuhl
19. Bob & Barbara Brown
20. Joe & Lisa Chioda
21. Detrall Dearbone
22. The Czubernat Family
23. The Deombeleg Family
24. Dorothy Francis
25. Arlene Gasperich
26. Laura Gaston
27. Arah Gibson & Alana Sanders
28. The Hadler family

# Immanuel Christian Academy News

## I Can...Appreciate

by Valerie J. Winston

Have you ever given someone a gift or done something for someone and they didn't thank you or show their appreciation? Many of us have experienced a situation like that. The lack of appreciation can cause hurt feelings and it can make you feel less likely to help that person in the future or even give them a gift.

It is nice to feel appreciated. It makes you feel valued and respected. Someone recognizes the hard work you've done or the effort that you have put forth. However, if we were to be honest with ourselves, we need to admit that we have not always been as appreciative as we should have been. There are times when we have failed to say thank you to someone.

Showing appreciation is not always a spontaneous act. Expressing thanks is a deliberate act that we have learned by watching those around us. Our parents told us to "mind our manners" in reminding us to say thank you for a gift or for a kindness done to or for us. It's amazing that we need to have special days or weeks so that we can remember to thank and appreciate those around us.

I often wonder what the parents of the nine healed lepers did when they found out they didn't return and thank Jesus for healing them. We know that Jesus questioned where they were. Gratitude and appreciation are important. People who show appreciation have learned that giving thanks springs from a heart that is focused on God. I Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

God's will is that we do show our appreciation. Showing appreciation allows us to look outward from ourselves and focus back on God. When we are appreciative of others it leaves us little room to complain about insignificant things. Being appreciative also opens doors for more blessings. Take the opportunity today to show someone just how much you appreciate them.

Immanuel Christian Academy would like to thank the congregation for their continued support. **During Lutheran Schools Week, the students spent time learning more about God's Presence in their lives. Students created art, sang praises, collected items for Phil's Friends and took many, many pictures.** Thank you also for your help with Open House.

Please spread the word about Immanuel Christian Academy with friends and neighbors that have school age children.

Thank you!

The staff and students of Immanuel Christian Academy

# Lenten Midweek Series

## THE BOOK OF EXODUS LET MY PEOPLE GO!

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and so does our emphasis on Moses’s book called Exodus. In it, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God’s people go seven times and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God’s salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament.

**Israel’s Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times!**

Throughout the book of Exodus God reveals who he is through his absence and his presence, through his silence and his speech, through his wrath and his mercy, and through his judgment and his amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of Jesus.

### Lent Schedule - Lenten Services and Suppers

March 6th, Ash Wednesday

March 13th 20th, 27th,

April 3rd, April 10th

### Holy Week

Palm Sunday April 14th

Maundy Thursday April 18th

Good Friday April 19th

Easter Sunday April 21st



- 2 Visioning Retreat
- 5 Vision & Hearing Rescreening Dartball
- 6 **Women’s Bible Study** Faculty Meeting
- 7 Spring Pictures Elders Meeting
- 8 Volleyball
- 10 GLS Order Due Communication Meeting
- 12 PTL Meeting Church Council Meeting Dartball
- 13 Stewardship Meeting
- 18 No School Presidents Day
- 18 Dartball
- 22 Volleyball
- 24 Voters Meeting
- 27 Garden meeting at OSH
- 28 Black History Month Program
- 28 End Of Trimester

March 1st - No School  
Records Day

**STEWARDSHIP CALLS US TO NOT ONLY “TALK THE TALK” BUT ALSO TO “WALK THE TALK.”**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).



**MONTHLY EVENTS - (unless otherwise noted)**

- Faculty Meeting - 1st Wednesday of each month 3pm
- PTL Meeting - 1st Tuesday of each month 6:00pm
- Adult Bible Study on Sundays 8:15am Sept. - June
- Darts Tuesdays at 7:30 PM - See Calendar
- Adult Choir Rehearsals Wed. Sept. - May at 7:30PM
- Adult Volleyball - Fridays check calendar for dates



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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1 - Donn Hempel</b>      | <b>17 - Evelyn Haynes</b>  |
| <b>1 - Jeffrey Bettin</b>   | <b>21 - Emily Bramos</b>   |
| <b>4 - Harald Pitz</b>      | <b>24 - Carolyn Barry</b>  |
| <b>4 - Joanna Czubernat</b> | <b>25 - Braydon Thomas</b> |
| <b>10 - Barb Arndt</b>      |                            |

Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that allows families to raise money for their non-profit organization. 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 your organization. It's really that simple! <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login>



FOR THE RECORD  
Nothing to report



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 Isaiah 25:1-9
- 2 Colossians 1:15-23
- 3 Colossians 1:24-2:5
- 4 John 1:1-18
- 5 Colossians 2:6-19
- 6 Colossians 2:20-3:4
- 7 Colossians 3:5-17
- 8 Mark 3:20-30
- 9 Mark 6:45-52
- 10 Mark 12:28-34
- 11 Mark 6:30-44
- 12 Ephesians 1:15-23
- 13 Ephesians 2:1-10
- Ash Wednesday**
- 14 Philippians 2:1-11
- 15 Philippians 2:12-18
- 16 Philippians 3:1-11
- 17 Philippians 3:12-21
- First Sunday in Lent**
- 18 Luke 20:19-26
- 19 2 Samuel 7:18-29
- 20 1 Kings 17:8-24
- 21 Daniel 10:1-11:1
- 22 Hosea 11:1-11
- 23 Micah 4:1-5
- 24 Zechariah 3:1-10
- Second Sunday in Lent**
- 25 John 6:25-59
- 26 1 John 2:1-17
- 27 1 John 2:18-29
- 28 1 John 3:1-10



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.



# February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 - 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship Holy communion 10:30am Coffee Hour	4 100th day of School	5 7:30pm Church Dartball	6 10:30am Women's Bible Study 3pm Faculty Meeting	7 Spring Pictures 6pm Elders Meeting	8 Walthor Choral fest 7pm Adult Volleyball	9 Visioning Retreat 10am - Noon
10 Scrip Order Due 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship Day School Sings 10:30am Coffee Hour 11:00am Communication Meeting	11	12 6:30pm PTL Meeting 6:30pm Church Council 7:30pm Church Dartball	13 6pm Stewardship Meeting Adult Choir 7:30	14	15	16
17 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship Holy communion 10:30am Coffee Hour	18 NO SCHOOL Presidents Day Deadline to make submissions for March Newsletter	19 7:30pm Church Dartball	20 Adult Choir 7:30	21	22 7pm Adult Volleyball	23
24 8:15am Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour Voters Meeting	25	26 7:30pm Church Dartball	27 6:30pm Garden Meeting @ OSH Adult Choir 7:30	28 6pm Black History Month Program	1 NO SCHOOL Records Day	

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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708-562-5580 ext. 201

REMEMBER TO PRAY  
If you have a prayer  
request, please call the  
pastor in the church office  
708-562-5590.

We are praying for you!  
Please notify the office  
when circumstances of your  
request change or when the  
Lord answers your prayers.  
We want to rejoice with you  
and thank the Lord.

### February Greeters

February 3 Marilyn Weeks & Dorothy Francis  
February 10 Randy & Michelle Weeks  
February 17 Wayne Valentine & Mindy Ondrovic  
February 24 The Mazaneks

