

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year because we get the opportunity to celebrate the wondrous gift of God's Son, Jesus. Because of God's gift to us on the very first Christmas, Christmas has become a gift-giving season. With so many people to give gifts to such as sons and daughters, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grandpas, etc., it is difficult to find the right gift for everyone. God has no such problems. He knows exactly what each person needs. In fact, He knows our needs better than we know them, and He knew them before we were even born. The timing of His most indescribably gift was perfect. *"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons"* (Galatians 4:4-5). In Him, and in none other, is our salvation. Jesus, Who came to us as a Baby in a manger, communicates God's saving love for us. He brings us life, salvation, and true joy.

How do we respond to what God has given us? Certainly, we don't shop on Amazon or go the malls to buy gifts for Jesus. The best gift we can possibly give Jesus is to show Him our love by faithfully and obediently doing what He asks of us. God is pleased when we allow Him to work through and in us as vessels of His love to others. We remain His vessel when we stay focused on the best gift, the gift of Jesus.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and make Jesus the reason for our joy. God's blessings on your Christmas worship and celebration with loved ones.

I would like to thank all of you for the commitment you demonstrated to the Lord through your offerings in 2019. Your generosity has enabled us to meet our obligations and give beyond ourselves in missions and ministries outside our church. On behalf of our church staff and the many others you have supported this year, I say, "Thank You."

Have a blessed Christmas,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg



SeedMoney

Help the Old Schoolhouse Community Garden & Orchard raise money for a tool storage shed and garden sign. We have initiated a fundraising campaign through the link below, please support us in our effort to secure the Matching Funds Grant through

SeedMoney. Your donation will help us serve the community, giving glory to God. Thank You.

<https://donate.seedmoney.org/3177/old-schoolhouse-community-garden-orchard>

POINTSETTIA PLANTS will be part of the chancel decorations for Christmas at Immanuel. If you would like to make a plant purchase, special order forms are available. Orders and payments must be made before December 8th. The foil covered plants are \$13.50 each. Checks should be made payable to Immanuel Altar Guild. The plants can be picked up immediately after the Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, contact Barb Arndt at 630-655-0797.



Advent Services

Wednesdays

December 4th, 11th, 18th

Cookie Walk

December 8th, after church in the long hallway. Customize your own cookie selection from an assortment of home baked goodies provided by our volunteers! Cookies are sold by the container and cost \$10.00 each. Sponsored by Immanuel's Women's Ministry

School Christmas Program ~ "Joy to You and Me" - December 15, 4pm

Service of Lessons and Carols ~ December 22, 9:30am



CHRISTMAS CAROLING & CHILI - The adult choir has arranged to have a chili lunch beginning at 11:00 AM on Sunday, December 22nd after our coffee hour. After lunch, they will go Christmas Caroling to our shut ins. Everyone is welcome to join them. Bring your favorite chili recipe, have a light lunch, and go caroling! See Donn Hempel if you have any questions.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey

Jesus Is the Reason for the Season

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in Him. It used to be that merchants would wait until after Thanksgiving to begin the celebration by filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, and all the trappings but now we see that it often starts in October.

How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in a stable. There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? No, it was made to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.

Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These ostracized creatures saw

the angels with "... *the glory of the Lord [shining] around them...*" They heard the message the angels brought: "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior Who is Christ the Lord... You will find a baby...lying in a manger*" (Luke 2:9,11-12). They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they shared it. "*When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them*" (Luke 2:17-18 NIV).

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? "*All who heard it were amazed,*" Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and "*spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this Child.*"



As stewards, we rejoice in the gifts God has given to us and to the whole Body of Christ. We humbly accept and use all our resources for His glory and the building up of the Church. Galatians 6:3-5 reads, "*For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.*" God wants us to accept personal responsibility for our actions. When we carry our own loads, we are in a position to help carry the loads of others. As Christians, we are to love and serve others.

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. The Duff Family
2. Dorothy Francis
3. Arlene Gasperich
4. The Hadler Family
5. Steven Hadler
6. Steve & Lucretia Hardy
7. Evelyn Haynes
8. Corinne Hein
9. The Hempel Family
10. Violet Horn
11. Sandra Houle
12. The Iacovetti Family
13. Ed & Dorothy Ivers
14. Hans Jacobs
15. The Karpierz Family
16. Clyde & Omie Lane
17. Becky Lelingis
18. The Lepé Family
19. The Mannella Family
20. Len & Susan Mazanek
21. Virginia Mazanek
22. Karen & Ed Mulvihill
23. Kathy Nelson
24. Lynda Nickl
25. Irene Niko
26. Mike & Carol Northcutt
27. Dennis & Phyllis Ondrovic
28. The Pená Family
29. The Perez Family
30. Annelies Pitz
31. The Railing Family



Immanuel Christian Academy

The Glorious Vision
by Valerie Winston

Recently a few words from the hymn, “The Church’s One Foundation” came to my mind. In the fifth stanza there is the line “till with the vision glorious”. I kept thinking about what the vision glorious must be. I know that the stanza itself may be speaking of the last days, where after toil and tribulation the church will be at peace and rest. I think the vision glorious must be a view of heaven.

Jesus is the church’s foundation. During the season of Advent, we look forward to and prepare for the coming of that foundation. What a truly glorious vision and a time to experience joy and peace.

What a glorious vision it must have been for the shepherds to see and hear the angels. What an even more glorious vision to find and see the baby Jesus, just as they had been told. What a glorious vision for the Wise Men who saw and followed the star. What a glorious vision for them as they beheld the Savior and King.

I can only imagine the glorious vision of all the artists, composers, and songwriters who’ve tried to capture the beauty, splendor, wonder, awe, and joy of the night of Jesus birth. What a glorious vision for us all as we look forward to and prepare for the wondrous night.

God’s blessings to you as you prepare your heart to receive that glorious vision that is our Savior. Merry Christmas!

FIRST TRIMESTER HONOR ROLL

In order to encourage our students scholastically, Immanuel maintains an honor roll each trimester for students in grades five through eight.

High Honor Roll - Laila Cobbins, Nikita Derkach, Jaden Fructuoso, Jaden Nash - 5th Grade; Garionna Body, Elijah Grimes, Kennedy Honey, Jayla Pernell, 6th Grade; Nadia Bradley, Trinity Hodges, 7th Grade; Andrew Tolefree and Kylee Woodruff, 8th Grade .

Honor Roll - Denzil Moore, Jr., 7th Grade .



A group of children excitedly talk about what joy is – such as Christmas lights and carol singing - and what it is *not* – such as purple dinosaur pajamas instead of a leather soccer ball! Through insightful perspectives of children, and the beloved scriptures of Christmas, they and we come to realize anew that Jesus Christ is the center of our joy! Join us for the Christmas musical: Joy to You and Me presented on Sunday afternoon, December 15, beginning at 4:00 P.M.

Walther Christian Academy's Christmas Concert - December 6th, 7pm

Concordia University Chicago will present its annual **Service of Lessons & Carols** on Saturday, December 7, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, December 8, at 4 p.m.

March for Life

NID Life Ministry March for Life Chicago 2020 MARCH FOR LIFE CHICAGO 2020: Join area Lutherans at the March for Life Chicago on SATURDAY, January 11, 2020. A March For Life Chicago convention kicks off the day and a short walk around Daley Plaza begins with a lineup of inspirational speakers affirming the value of life and underscoring the importance of continuing to speak out for life. LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison is participating. To take the NID - sponsored bus, meet at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1101 Kimberly Way, Lisle 60532 for pre-event worship at 9 a.m. Bus departs at 9:45 a.m. and returns at 4:45 p.m. Suggested Donation: \$20. Bus reservations MUST be made by January 7th at 630.234.1491 or kbwrk123@gmail.com and participants must download a free convention fast past. Also, Rev. Harrison is giving the opening prayer at the March For Life Chicago Banquet on Saturday evening. Info at: marchforlife-chicago.org.

Service of Remembrance

The busy-ness of the holidays can magnify the loneliness you feel when you have lost someone close. This Christmas season, we encourage you to come and be a part of Trinity's special Service of Remembrance to be held on Saturday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Kimberly Way site. Address is 1101 Kimberly Way Lisle, IL. This is a beautiful service to remember our loved ones who have died. It is a prayerful and reflective time of comfort and hope for those who mourn the loss of someone close to them. And it is held at the time of year we remember the Prince of Peace who was born at Christmas – entering into

our grief and giving new hope, life and joy! Come as you are. Whatever you are feeling, wherever you are in your journey, God understands and promises to meet you there. There is also an opportunity at this service to light a candle in memory of your loved one. Everyone is welcome. Invite family, friends and neighbors. The atmosphere is very warm and accepting, and grief volunteers are available to talk before, during and after the service. Comfort dogs will also be on hand. Refreshments will be served following the service. Questions? Please contact Chad Leonard at (630) 708-8004 or chad.leonard@tlc4u.org. This service is sponsored by the Care Ministries of Trinity.

Important Dates:

- 3 Day School Commission Meeting
Dartball
- 4 Faculty Meeting
Men's Bible Study
Advent Supper and Service
Adult Choir
- 5 Candy Cane Lane
- 6 Adult Volleyball
- 8 Cookie Walk
Scrip Orders Due
- 10 Hearing and Vision re-screening
Math Club
Dartball
- 11 Faculty Meeting
Men's Bible Study
Advent Supper and Service
Adult Choir
- 13 PTL Christmas Store
- 15 Christmas Program
SeedMoney Campaign Ends
- 17 PTL Meeting
- 18 Faculty Meeting
Men's Bible Study
Advent Supper and Service
Adult Choir
- 20 Christmas Break Begins
- 22 Lessons & Carols / Chili and Caroling
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day Service

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.

December

First Sunday in Advent	17 Isaiah 12:1-6
1 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	18 Isaiah 35:1-10
2 Psalm 24	19 Isaiah 52:1-12
3 Psalm 87	20 Isaiah 60:1-22
4 Psalm 122	21 Isaiah 62:1-12
5 Psalm 130	Fourth Sunday in Advent
6 Ruth 4:13-22	22 Luke 1:1-38
7 Luke 3:23-38	23 Luke 1:39-56
Second Sunday in Advent	Christmas Eve
8 Micah 5:2-15	24 Luke 1:57-80
9 Zephaniah 3:14-20	Christmas Day
10 Zechariah 9:9-17	25 Luke 2:1-20
11 Malachi 3:1-7	26 Luke 22:21-40
12 Malachi 4:1-6	27 John 1:1-18
13 Luke 3:1-6	28 John 1:19-34
14 Luke 3:7-20	29 John 1:35-51
Third Sunday in Advent	30 John 2:1-12
15 Isaiah 9:1-7	31 Titus 3:1-15
16 Isaiah 11:1-16	

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.

MONTHLY EVENTS

(unless otherwise noted)

Faculty Meeting
 1st Wednesday of the Month
 (Sept. - May)

PTL Meeting
 3rd Tuesday of Month

Bible Study Sundays
 8:15am September - May

Women’s Bible Study
 Wednesdays 10:00am
Off during Christmas break

Men’s Bible Study
 Wednesdays 4:30pm

Dartball - Tuesday 7:30
 September - May

Adult Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays 7:30pm
 September - 1st Week in June

Adult Volleyball
 Select Fridays September - April

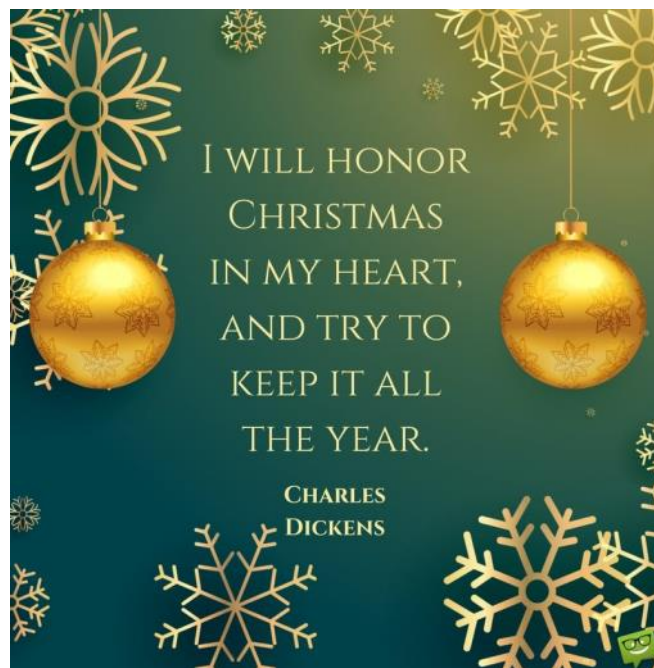


For the Record

Nothing to Report

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 3 -Maya Lepe | 11 - Lance Turner |
| 3 - Lizette Pena | 13 - Rita Stallings |
| 7 - Sarah Blair | 16 - Jayne Siou |
| 8 - Susan Mazanek | 18 - Maxine Mannella |
| 9 - Zachary Blair | 21 - Mia Railing |
| 10 - Karen Bimler | 24 - Zachary Redis |
| 10 - Katy Thomas | 26 - Corinne Hein |





December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship H.C. 10:30 Coffee Hour	2	3 - Giving Tuesday 5pm - Day School Meeting 7pm Dartball	4 - 3pm Faculty Meeting 4:30pm Men's Bible Study / 7:00pm Advent Service / 7:30pm Adult Choir	5 4pm - Basketball Game HOME 5:30pm Candy Cane Lane	6 7pm Adult Volleyball	7	
8 - Scrip Orders Due 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour and Cookie Walk	9	10 - Vision & Hearing re-screening 3pm Math Club 7pm Dartball	11 4:30pm Men's Bible Study / 7:00pm Advent Service / 7:30pm Adult Choir	12	13 PTL Christmas Store	14 SeedMoney Campaign ends Tomorrow - Give today!	
15 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship H.C. 10:30 Coffee Hour 4pm Christmas Program	16	17 PTL Meeting	18 - 4:30pm Men's Bible Study / 7:00pm Advent Service / 7:30pm Adult Choir	19	20 No School	21	
22 - 8:30am Bible Study / 9:30am Lessons and Carols 10:30 Coffee Hour 11am Chili and Caroling	23	24 Christmas Eve 9pm Evening Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Service	26	27	28	
29 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Worship H.C. 10:30 Coffee Hour	30	31 New Years Eve	Christmas Break - No School				
Christmas Break - No School							

2317 - 2329 South Wolf Road
Hillside, IL 60162

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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Valerie Winston, Principal
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December Greeters

8 - Jayne Siou

15 - Rita Stallings

22 - Doretha Brown

29 - Becky Lilingis & Rita Stallings

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.



Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10