



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

February 2021

Volume 16, Issue 8

♥ Heart Prep ♥

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

What St. Augustine said is really true, “Our hearts will find no rest until they find their rest in God.”

The season of Lent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive our crucified and risen Lord. The focus of our preparation (repentance) is contrasted by a world that is fully satisfied with their behavior. There is no sense of remorse or sorrow or regret and therefore, no forgiveness and no rest. During the season of Lent the Church is a living example to our culture that we are not satisfied with our behavior and that our God is always ready to forgive.

During Lent many Christians give up things as a reminder of how much our Lord gave up for us. We actively and purposefully set our focus on Christ and His journey to the cross of Calvary. It is there that Jesus removed our sin by shedding His blood and dying in our place. If you haven't been to church in a while let these words spoken on Ash Wednesday be your invitation to, *“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (Joel 2:13)*. Let this Lent be a time of turning around toward God...a time of rediscovering the great and marvelous things that he has done in your life since he called you by name in baptism to be his own.

I appeal to you to deepen your walk with God by giving up a small amount of time during the season of Lent. *“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!” Psalm 95:6*. Each Wednesday at 7pm we gather (in person and online) to hear God's Word and receive encouragement, strength, and hope. God provides for His people now, just as He did with the Israelites on their wilderness journey. Life in our modern world can leave us weary and thirsting just as they experienced. *“My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!” (Psalm 119:25)*. And God, being rich in mercy, did even more by sending Jesus, *“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14)*.

The Time of Easter invites us into the story of Jesus' sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus gives proof that our salvation has been completed and that our hope for eternal life with God is secure. But first, let's prepare our hearts.

Let us pray. *“Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me to your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long” (Psalm 25:4-5). Amen.*

In the Fellowship and Love of Christ,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

Lenten Sermon Series & Services

“King of Kings”

Many are the hymns and songs that reference Jesus Christ as King of kings.

This year's Lenten worship will take a closer look at some of those earthly kings in the Old Testament (and one in the New), the kings over whom the King of kings reigns supreme. Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17, we'll bring to the surface King David, King Saul, King Solomon, King Ahab, King Zedekiah, and King Herod, the only king whose life intersects Christ the King. All of this builds toward Holy Week, when we will lift high the King of Kings.

Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

David: The King Who Laid Bare His Soul

February 24, 7:00 p.m.

Saul: The King Who Fell from Grace

March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Solomon: The King Who Had Everything

March 10, 7:00 p.m.

Ahab: The King Whose Repentance Was Too Little, Too Late

March 17, 7:00 p.m.

Zedekiah: The King Who Turned Out the Lights

March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Herod: The King Who Couldn't Kill Jesus

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, 9:30 a.m.



Grow in the Grace of Giving

We are now a few weeks into a new year. At the beginning of a new year, we often take stock of the previous year and possibly take steps to change what needs to be changed, improved, or eliminated. Many of us make new year resolutions that involve diet, exercising, reading, or other activities. For your consideration, what about making 2021 a year that you focus on being a better steward of the blessings that God out of His goodness and mercy entrusts to you? Through faith, we understand that all we are and have are gifts from God, and He gives us opportunities to show our gratitude by being faithful stewards of His gifts to us.

An important part of being a faithful steward that we could focus on in this new year is our giving. Giving honors God and expresses our thankfulness to Him for all of His blessings, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus. As Rev. Stephen Olford, a 20th century Christian leader, aptly stated, "Giving satisfies the soul, edifies the church, and magnifies the Lord." God's Word exhorts us to give cheerfully and generously (2 Corinthians 9:7). In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he tells them and us that we are to give *"on the first day of every week...as [we] may prosper"* (1 Corinthians 16:2). As our incomes increase so should our giving. Through faith, our giving changes from a "must give" to a "want to give" attitude. If it is our desire to grow in the grace of giving, we know that our heavenly Father will hear and answer our prayers seeking His help.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *"It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy"* (1 Corinthians 4:2). God has made us His stewards, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, He equips us to be God-pleasing stewards. In his second letter to the church in Corinth, Paul wrote, *"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:11). Paul is telling us that the Lord will provide for whatever we need in order to be generous so that the work of the church here and around the world can go on. Through this work that God is doing through us, we will be enriched and blessed in every way, and, through this work, we will be producing thanksgiving to God.

As we honor God through our giving, we will experience the blessings and joy that come from giving. May God grant us all the resolve to put Him first with the money that He entrusts to each of us.

**AS GOD'S STEWARDS,
WE ARE INSTRUMENTS
THROUGH WHICH HE WORKS
TO FURTHER HIS KINGDOM
AND HELP THOSE IN NEED.**

"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).

As stewards, we are in a partnership with God. First Corinthians 3:9 says, *"For we are God's fellow workers..."* God, Who is the senior partner, provides everything we need to make life possible. God's gifts are to be used to provide for our needs, to help others, and to extend His kingdom. As stewards, we are called to respond to God as our creator and owner and seek to fulfill His purpose. We are given the responsibility to receive, manage, and share faithfully all that He has entrusted to us. He expects our obedience and faithfulness. First Corinthians 4:2 says, *"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."*

**Jesus Taught
us how to
Serve Others**

Immanuel Christian Academy

The Shortest, Longest Month

By Valerie Winston

I am always amazed at how short the month of February is and how much can seemingly be crammed into it. Some days on the calendar are of greater importance than others. There is probably more focus on Groundhog Day than there is on National Pizza Day. I sometimes wonder if because of the number of activities in the month, that the celebrations for two presidential birthdays were combined into Presidents' Day. Of course, we also celebrate Black History Month and Valentine's Day. We also begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. On my personal calendar, I have four family members with birthdays in this month.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." There are many events and activities in our lives, not just in February. Sometimes those events and activities can be overwhelming. We can try to be too many things to too many people. We may feel as if we have too much to do and not enough time in which to do it. We can try to do too many things because they just need to get done. It becomes overwhelming because we allow it to happen.

In Exodus 18:17-18, Moses' father-in-law tries to get him to understand when he is doing too much. His father-in-law says, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone." Doing too much can wear us out, cause us to become irritable, fill us with worry and stress, and even cause illness. One of the first words children learn is "no". Somehow we forget that word can be used when we take on too much. Sometimes we need to stop trying to be and do everything. We need to set priorities, focus on one thing at a time, and let others help us.

But the best thing that we can do is take time to rest and pray. Spending time with the Lord allows us to see what is truly needful and what is truly important. When we sometimes let the events and activities listed on a calendar overwhelm us we only need remember what Jesus has told us in *Matthew 11:28*, "*Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*" May you find some peace and rest as we begin this short, long month.



Each year Immanuel participates in a church-wide drive for Caring Network. This year, Immanuel joins them in a virtual fundraiser, collecting money for their life-saving ministry. Support Caring Network with an online donation today! When making an online donation, please type "Immanuel Hillside" as your congregation. If you prefer to

bring a donation to church on Sundays, place it in a clearly marked envelope for Caring Network. We will make sure donations are sent to them, or mail your check to :

Caring Network
1200 Roosevelt Rd Ste 114
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

"Caring Network Illinois is the first step for women facing an unplanned pregnancy. We welcome women with unconditional love, counsel, and resources that offer the light of truth—changing hearts and saving lives. Over time our team has honed its skills, so that we bring the very best tools into the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy—the latest in ultrasound technology and pregnancy counselors skilled in intervention, addressing the complex issues that compel a mother to seek abortion as her answer. In almost four decades, Caring Network has been used by God to save many thousands of lives!"

Annual Fund

We have received \$4500 in donations for the annual fund. We would love to raise at least \$6000 in donations before the end of the 2020 -2021 school year. There is still an opportunity to help our school. If you would like to contribute, visit: icahillside.org and click on "Support The Annual Fund" or mail a check to the school office. We will continue to update you on the progress of the Annual Appeal and again want to thank you for your support!

Other ways to support Immanuel Christian Academy

GAME DAY
Order Your Favorite For The Big Game

BUY ANY 2

- Popcorn Chicken
- Buffalo Wings
- Chicken Meatballs
- Chicken Fries
- Andouille Sausage
- Apple Blossoms

Receive a FREE 2 lb. bag Mozzarella Sticks

CLICK HERE

www.marketdaylocal.com

**Choose Immanuel Christian Academy - Hillside as
your organization.**

amazon.com[®]
Smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

smile.amazon.com

ShopWithScrip[®]

www.shopwithscrip.com
Enrollment Code: 9D337C6F55761

**Office
DEPOT[®]**

Earn 5% back in credits
for your school
**IMMANUEL
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**
ID: 70032747

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 1 John 3:1-10	Ash Wednesday
2 1 John 3:11-24	17 Matthew 6:1-4, 16-21
3 1 John 4:7-21	18 John 13:1-20
4 1 John 5:1-5	19 John 13:21-35
5 2 John	20 John 15:1-17
6 3 John	
	First Sunday in Lent
7 Matthew 8:1-17	21 Psalm 91
8 Matthew 9:1-13	22 Hosea 1:1-2:1
9 Matthew 9:14-26	23 Hosea 2:2-23
10 Matthew 9:27-38	24 Hosea 3:1-5
11 Matthew 10:1-15	25 Hosea 11:1-11
12 Matthew 15:29-39	26 Hosea 14:1-9
13 Psalm 136	27 Deuteronomy 6:1-9
	Second Sunday in Lent
14 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	28 Matthew 22:23-40
15 Galatians 5:1-15	
16 Matthew 5:38-48	

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. Marilyn Weeks
2. Randy & Michelle Weeks
3. The Welch Family
4. Dorothy Westphal
5. Philbert Wilcox Sr.
6. Philbert Wilcox Jr.
7. Brett Willis
8. Valerie Winston
9. Vern Witt
10. Harold Zedler
11. Annetta Zimmerman
12. Ron & Barb Arndt
13. Susan Arnold
14. Taylor Balslew
15. Leonard Bartels
16. The Bell Family
17. Jennifer Bettin
18. Jeffrey Bettin
19. Leonard Bettin
20. Karen Bimler
21. The Blair Family
22. Bud & Lois Boese
23. The Bozzi Family
24. Roger Brabant
25. Ruth Anne Brendemuhl
26. Bob Brown
27. Doretha Brown & Rashaad Smith
28. Joe & Lisa Chioda

For the Record

Nothing to report



February Birthdays

- 1 - Donn Hempel
- 1 - Jeffrey Bettin
- 4 - Joanna Czubernat
- 10 - Barb Arndt
- 17 - Evelyn Haynes
- 24 - Carolyn Barry
- 25 - Braydon Thomas



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 - 5:30pm Day School Commission Meeting	3 - Chapel 3pm Staff Meeting	4 - 6pm - Elders Meeting	5	6 11am - 1pm PYHT Pantry
7 - 9:30am Worship HC Followed by Bible Study	8	9 - 6pm Church Council Meeting	10 - Chapel	11 - NO SCHOOL 6pm Stewardship Meeting	12 - NO SCHOOL	13
14 - Scrip Order Due 9:30am Worship Followed by Bible Study	15 - Presidents' Day NO SCHOOL	16	17 - Chapel 7pm Ash Wednesday Service followed <i>Soup Supper to Go</i>	18 - SPRING PICTURES IN THE NARTHEX	19	20 11am - 1pm PYHT Pantry
21 - Voters Meeting 9:30am Worship HC Followed by Bible Study	22	23	24 7pm Lenten Service	25	26	27
28 9:30am Worship Followed by Bible Study						

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

Rev. Steve Deombeleg, Pastor

ilcpastor@immanuel-hillside.org

708-562-5590 ext. 101 Cell: 847-714-6080

Deatrice Honey, Administration Assistant

general@immanuel-hillside.org

708-562-5580 ext. 200

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music

dhempel@immanuel-hillside.org

Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 205

Home: 708-442-1505

Valerie Winston, Principal

vwinston@immanuel-hillside.org

708-562-5580 ext. 201

www.icaillside.org



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*