



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

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Volume 16, Issue 3

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

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

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock
For the Father has chosen
To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!
LSB 735 st. 1

The first stanza to the familiar hymn, *Have No Fear, Little Flock*, assures us that we have nothing to fear even though the world is in disarray. It is easy to lose sight of the big picture when you are bombarded daily with images and reports of natural disasters and lawlessness and a worldwide pandemic. Thank God for His Word that helps to refocus our worldview with the assurance that we are in His hands. The psalmist reminds us, "*The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them*" (Ps. 89:11).

The hymn and God's Word pull no punches—do not be afraid—God is bigger than what we are experiencing. Yet, we all seem to be anxious, checking the 24-hour news cycle for the next jolt to our insecurity. And it isn't just the coronavirus. Besides health, many are afraid of losing their jobs. Some fear an economic, environmental, or societal collapse, for others it's a loss of personal freedom. Christians also are afraid; afraid that our influence in America is collapsing and that freedom of religion is teetering. Any way you dice it, it's all about control. What we are most afraid of losing points to who or what we worship; where we place our trust. The first test to know that we are actually worshiping the right God is fear.

To an unbelieving world and even in the church, believe it or not, the fear of God is a silly notion. We know that God is increasingly rejected in America but even among many Christians, God is reduced to a supporting actor in our life movie: He helps us find happiness, good health, and fortune. Just mention the fear of God in a conversation and watch the eyebrows rise up.

We worship what we fear most. The fear of catching COVID-19 is one of the greatest fears right now. We know that people don't worship a virus, but many do worship health—physical and mental wellness. Fear is an indicator of the object of our worship, ultimately the one in whom we place our trust. If we look to our nation's leaders for security are we telling our neighbors that we don't trust in the One who said, "*Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*" (Luke 12:32)? Jesus' words

calm our fears reminding us that we belong to him.

When Jesus warns of coming persecution, it's not to instill fear in his disciples, but that they hope in him alone, because of his victory: *"I have said these things to you that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). These words of Jesus give us great comfort. Another comfort for the believer is that the fear of God isn't really *fear*. It actually means that God alone is terrifying in his glory, righteous in his judgments, and merciful to all who call on his name. The right kind of fear, godly fear, "casts out fear" and leads to trust and love (1 Jn 4:18).

When we fear God, not even death can threaten us because it is the "last enemy" whose claim on us has been made null and void (1 Cor 15:50-57). Therefore, we now care for this world not because it will be destroyed but because it will be restored (Rom 8:18-25). Our lives now move out to our neighbors instead of being turned in on ourselves. We are energized by freedom, not fear, *"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control"* (2 Tim 1:7). The true headline is, "It's Easter!" Because each Lord's Day we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

When we fear God, all other fears become manageable, not by human pride, but calmed by the Good Shepherd who has brought us into His fold—His Kingdom. *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight"* (Prov. 9:10) and the wisdom of God is Christ (1 Cor. 1:30).

The fear of God leads to trust and trust bears the fruit of the Spirit, for a harvest of blessings for ourselves and for others. If God uses challenging times to bring us to rest in him, what better outcome could there be?

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones"* (Proverbs 3:5-8).

Let us pray. Holy Father, through the shed blood of Your Son Jesus Christ on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, you have brought us into Your Kingdom. Thank You for Your grace and mercy. Thank You for loving us, even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Thank You for choosing us to be Your very own, even before creation itself. We no longer live in fear but have Your perfect peace. Help us to show that perfect peace to a world that lives in fear. Give us the words to speak in love, that those outside Your Kingdom may join us in following the One true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Cor. 13:14).

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

Sharing our Blessings

Perhaps you have noticed a sign like this at the beginning of a buffet line in a restaurant: "Take as much as you want, but please eat all you take." The hope was that all the diners would have plenty to eat but that there would be no wasted food.

God gave the same direction to His children wandering in the desert. He said, "Take all the manna you can eat but not more than you need for the day." Every morning the people went out and gathered what they would need for the day. Some, however, gathered a little more so they could store it up for the next day. What an unpleasant surprise to discover in the morning that their manna was full of maggots and smelled!

God still gives us manna. In Luther's explanation to the first Article of the Creed, he wrote that God promises to provide "all that I need to support this body and life." Most of us find that we have enough for today, tomorrow, and as far into the future as we can imagine. Yet at times we get a little greedy. We want more than our shares. We hoard for the proverbial "rainy day." It's at this point that our attitudes begin to stink!

If this is the case with you, the best thing to do is to look again at the blessings God has given you. The surest road to contentment is gratitude. As you begin thanking God for all that He has done for you and given you, your attitude will sweeten once more.

"Take all of My gifts you want," God says, "but use them to help those around you." Part of gratitude is spoken thanks, but an even bigger part is shown through the way you use the gifts God has given you. May God help us all have grateful and willing hearts to share with others.

GIVING REFLECTS AN ATTITUDE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the "*radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power*" (Hebrews 1:3). In his book *Stewards of the Kingdom*, Scott Rodin wrote the following. "It is only by grace that we have knowledge of God. It is only by grace that we know God as Father, Jesus as Savior, and the Spirit as Comforter. It is only by grace that we know ourselves as created for relationship with God, as redeemed by the precious blood of this Savior, and as participants in the life of God and mission of God's people through the movement of this Spirit." Our relationship with God should prompt us to reflect His grace in our thoughts and action.

When God is our treasure, we . . .

- Give cheerfully
- Have financial freedom
- Avoid debt
- Attribute success to God
- Seek God
- Trust God
- Desire less
- Are content
- Have inner peace
- Have an eternal perspective

When things are our treasure, we . . .

- Give grudgingly
- Are in financial bondage
- Abuse debt
- Attribute success to self
- Are self-satisfied
- Trust Self
- Desire more
- Are restless
- Lack satisfaction/ fulfillment
- Live for the moment

Immanuel Christian Academy

Back to School

By Valerie Winston



In the past, going back to school has been pretty exciting. It was always fun to get new school supplies, new clothes, a new book bag, and a new lunch box. Going back to school in the time of this pandemic has taken on a whole new meaning. There is so much more to consider and school supplies now consist of face masks, hand sanitizer and special protocols.

So much has changed for students and teachers alike. What we have done in the past we can no longer do. Teaching and learning are becoming much more unique experiences. Being back to school at Immanuel Christian Academy means two different options for learning. Some students are learning in school and some are learning from home. In either case, our teachers have worked diligently to prepare for the year to provide the best education possible in both settings.

This school year will bring many challenges for our students, parents, and teachers. Please pray for the protection of our students, pray that their fears and anxieties may be lessened. Pray for their peace of mind and the ability to focus. Please pray for the health and safety of our faculty and staff. Pray for their protection and peace and for continued strength and encouragement. Pray for patience, understanding, and peace for our parents.

As you uplift our school in prayer, we know that God will hear and answer those prayers. Even though going back to school has meant a lot of transition and change we know that God's love for us never changes. We know that He will continue to be our rock and our sure defense. He has and will continue to sustain us.

Market Day is Back!

Market Day is back and with home direct delivery! Register at www.marketdaylocal.com.

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



Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pop Up Pantry September 12 & 26
11am - 1pm

Volunteer Sign-up on Sign-Up Genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084dafaf29a57-popuppantry>



Food collection will continue.
Please drop off pantry
items in the Narthex.



Saturday
September

26

9:00am to 2:00pm

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

Any Donor Questions call:
847-305-9998
Photo ID is required.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH **SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE**

DRIVE WILL BE HELD IN THE COACH PARKED IN THE CHURCH LOT AT 2317 S. WOLF RD., HILLSIDE

*All donations will be tested for Covid-19 Antibodies

To sign up, go to www.versiti.org/IL or call/text Camille from Versiti at 847-305-9998.

Appointments preferred. Walk-ins can be seen if there are open time slots.

CDC & FDA report blood donations are safe!

All donor safety precautions are being followed.
Less restrictions now - including travel and tattoos!

Blood Drive



Diaper Drive

Drop-off in
the Narthex
Fridays & Sundays
9am-Noon
until September 6



- Oatmeal / Cereal
- Toaster Pastries
- Granola / Cereal Bars
- Applesauce Cups
- Canned Meat
- Canned Soup / Ramen
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Peanut Butter
- **Jelly Jelly Jelly**
- Canned Meals (Stew, Macaroni, Ravioli & Chili)
- Juice (Plastic Bottles)
- Snack Crackers
- Snack Size Chips, Popcorn, Pretzels
- Snack Size Cookies
- Fruit Snacks
- Allergy Free Foods

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.

September

1 James 1:1-11	16 1 Corinthians 3:1-23
2 James 1:12-27	17 Proverbs 6:1-19
3 James 2:1-13	18 Proverbs 6:20-35
4 James 2:14-26	19 Proverbs 16:1-33
5 James 3:1-18	
	20 Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
6 James 4:1-17	21 Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20
7 James 5:1-20	22 Psalm 119:1-24
8 Matthew 5:1-20	23 Psalm 119:25-48
9 Matthew 5:21-48	24 Psalm 119:49-72
10 Matthew 6:19-34	25 Psalm 119:73-96
11 Matthew 7:1-14	26 Psalm 119:97-120
12 Matthew 7:15-29	
	27 Psalm 119:121-144
13 Matthew 25:1-13	28 Psalm 119:145-176
14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31	29 Psalm 19
15 1 Corinthians 2:1-16	30 Psalm 1

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.

For the Record

New Member - Joe Chioda



Birthdays

1 - Gloria Rubietta	18- Steve Deombeleg
2 - Ruth Anne Brendemuhl	19 - Mindy Ondrovic
3 - Joe Chioda	19- Arlene Gasperich
3 - Lapricka Duff	21 - Selena Perez
4 - Barbara Brown	23- Carson Thomas
4 - Sheila Railing	26 - Clyde Lane
9 - Grace Hadler	28 - Omie Lane
10 - Maxwell Railing	29 - Joan Rundgren
13 - Dot Schneider	30 - Lloyd Mooney
17- Tim Bell	30- Suzie Lepe
17 - Lisa Chioda	

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. Clyde and Omie Lane
2. Becky Lelingis
3. The Lepe family
4. The Mannella Family
5. Len & Susan Mazanek
6. Scott Mazanek
7. Virginia Mazanek
8. Lloyd & Toni Mooney
9. Ed & Karen Mulvihill
10. Heidi Murphy
11. Kathy Nelson
12. Lynda Nickl
13. Irene Niko
14. Mike & Carol Northcutt
15. Phyllis Ondrovic
16. Mindy Ondrovic
17. The Pena Family
18. The Perez Family
19. Renee Phillips
20. Annelies Pitz
21. Lynn Rand
22. Susan Redis
23. Gloria Rubietta
24. Joan Rundgren
25. Karen Sierawski
26. Jayne Siou
27. Rose Slagle
28. Daniel Stallings
29. Rita Stallings
30. The Svec Family



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



September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 NO SCHOOL	5 9am - Noon Garden Work Day
6 9:30am Worship HC 11am Bible Study	7 Labor Day NO SCHOOL	8 Scrip Order Due	9 3pm Faculty Meeting	10 Elder Meeting 6pm	11	12 11am - 1pm PYHT Food Pantry
13 9:30am Worship 11am Bible Study	14	15 Church Council Meeting	16	17	18 Pastor Steve's Birthday	19 9am - Noon Garden Work Day
20 9:30am Worship HC 11am Voters Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26 Mobile Blood Drive 11am - 1pm PYHT Food Pantry
27 9:30am Worship 11am Bible Study	28	29	30			

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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*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*