



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

March 2021

Volume 16, Issue 9

Come See What the Lord Has Done

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

We are approaching one year since Immanuel was forced to make the decision to halt in-person worship. That was incredibly difficult for us to do, as it was for all churches. But God has carried us through this difficult and strange time. We could not foresee worshiping in the way we worship today. Like the old Virginia Slims commercial once chimed, “You’ve come a long way baby!” Yes, we have come a long way, but we didn’t do it alone, God heard and answered our prayers. With the psalmists we sing, *“⁵Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free (Ps 118:5), and, “⁸Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Ps 124:8).*

Like standing too close to a painting, you can only see what is directly in front of you. You have to step back to see all the details and appreciate its beauty. Likewise, it is good for *us* to take a step back and see everything that the Lord has done here at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School. In our first year at the school of hard knocks, we have had to reinvent how students learn in school and how believers’ worship in church. In hindsight, we can see how God has been faithful in providing for His people.

Yet, through our wilderness experience (with much grumbling), we are more technologically savvy than ever. Both Church and School have become a hybrid in their own way by blending two different forms of communication (in-person and online). Not easy, a big learning curve, many headaches, yet with much prayer the Lord has blessed both School and Church in a number of ways.

Oftentimes we think of being blessed in the passive—something done to us. But in Genesis 12, the Lord told Abram, “Go...be a blessing!” Although Abram didn’t know where he was going, he trusted God’s Word and followed his direction. Ultimately Abram’s descendants would fill the earth and all nations would be blessed through him. Similarly, our School and Church have had to trust in God’s Word and follow his direction even though we couldn’t see what lay ahead. By faith in Christ, we have begun to bear the fruit of our Vision for Immanuel Lutheran Church and School—to Glorify God and Impact the Community. God is showing us how to be a blessing to our community spiritually, physically, and educationally.

Looking back at a year wrought with so much hardship and despair, unrest and misery, *“we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Rom 8:28).* It’s amazing how God can bring great blessings to others in times of darkness. I rejoice in the way God works through you, *“...a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).* To God be the glory. Amen.

In the Fellowship and Love of Christ,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg



Lenten Sermon Series & Services

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

"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.

March 3 - Solomon: The King Who Had Everything

March 10 - Ahab: The King Whose Repentance Was Too Little, Too Late

March 17 - Zedekiah: The King Who Turned Out the Lights

March 24 - 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.

PRAY. FAST. GIVE.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. Psalm 119:10

COLORFUL SPRING FLOWERS CAN BE ORDERED FOR OUR EASTER CELEBRATION. PLEASE CONSIDER A PURCHASE FOR YOUR OWN ENJOYMENT OR AS A GIFT FOR FAMILY OR FRIENDS. PLEASE COMPLETE A FORM & MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO IMMANUEL ALTAR GUILD. AN ENVELOPE WILL BE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX WHERE YOU MAY PLACE YOUR ORDER. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL BARB ARNDT AT 630.655.0797.

Jesus Cheers Us On

After writing the great “faith chapter,” the author of Hebrews wrote, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...”* (Hebrews 12:1-2). The cloud of witnesses refers to the saints highlighted in the “faith chapter” who have gone before us in our race, which is a metaphor for living the Christian life. With this vision in our minds, are we not inspired!

Even more important than having the “cloud of witnesses” accompanying us on our race to receive an imperishable prize, we have Jesus with us. He is not only with us in our race, He is at the finish line cheering us on. Through faith, we can hear Jesus saying, “Come on, you can do it!” To help us in our races, Jesus blesses us in the following ways:

- He gives us energy: *“For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me”* (Colossian 1:29).
- He gives us courage: *“Fear not, little flock, for it is Your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”* (Luke 12:32).
- He promises to be with us: *“I am with you always, to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20).
- He gives us hope: *“I am sure of this, that He Who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 1:6).

As God’s people, we not only keep our eyes on the finish line, we focus on Christ Who has shown us how to run and Who has run for us. Just as the runner is cheered on by his supporters, we are encouraged by those saints who, by faith, have run the race before us. Just as the runner is stripped to the barest of clothing and lightest of shoes, we rid ourselves of everything that could hinder our race and of every sin that could trip us up. Finally, just like the true runner, we run with joy and exhilaration. *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

As we run our races, we need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit Who nourishes us for the task through Word and Sacrament. In our races, the Holy Spirit will help us to witness, teach, give, serve, and show compassion to others just as Jesus did during His earthly ministry.

**GOOD WORKS ARE
DEEDS DONE IN SERVICE TO
OTHERS PROMPTED BY LOVE
THROUGH FAITH.**

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

The Apostle John tells us *“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love”* (1 John 4:8). Love fittingly describes the nature of God; His love is revealed in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. God expressed His unfathomable love by sending Jesus to live among us and to take upon Himself all the sins of mankind when He suffered and died on the Cross. By God’s grace in Jesus, we become people who commit our lives and blessings to His use. Acknowledging that all we are and have are gifts from God’s love, we become His faithful stewards who show our gratitude through faithful and generous giving.

**Do
GOOD
Works**

IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Joy of a Lutheran School by Valerie Winston

Every year Lutheran schools around the country celebrate Lutheran Schools Week. We will be celebrating this month. Being a part of the Lutheran school system has been a special and unique experience for me. Throughout my attendance at a Lutheran elementary school, high school, and college I was able to make deep and abiding connections with my fellow classmates and teachers that exist to this day.

While each school is unique, they share many of the same characteristics, especially the work of the ministry of the Gospel. It is with a great sense of joy that I can still see how so many of our students are having those same experiences I had. Please enjoy what some of our students have expressed about their time at Immanuel Christian Academy.

*The students and staff are so loving and accepting. There are no popularity contests or competitions to fit in. At Immanuel there's always someone willing to be your friend. - Jordyn Allen

*It's like every day I do and see my family members. We also talk about Jesus every day. - Evan Burks

*The students are better behaved than at my old school where there was a lot of drama. The students here are more calm and nicer. - Trinity Cade

*There are a lot of nice people and the school accepts all kids. One of my favorite things is the plays. - Laila Cobbins

*All my friends are here and I like the teachers. It's fun meeting new students each year. My favorite thing is the field trips. - Amaru Davis

*It makes me feel at home and it's a happy place to look forward to going. There are teachers and students who feel like family to me. My favorite thing is chapel, because we can sing and have fun and learn about Jesus.
- Jahzara Kinsey

*I like Immanuel because they teach Religion and my favorite thing is not that much homework each day.
- Evan Fleming

*Everyone at Immanuel is so kind, from the students to the teachers. Every day when I'm at school I learn something new and have fun while I'm doing it. The teachers help me with my work so I know what to do. My favorite thing about Immanuel is the family-like environment and that everyone knows each other. - Jaden Nash

*I love being at Immanuel for several reasons. When I first came here I was greeted by such nice people. The teachers and other staff members were so friendly and welcoming. My classmates and I, as well as other students in the school got along well. When I came here I got to know everybody, I wasn't a shy person anymore.

Another reason I love being at Immanuel is that whatever class I'm in, the teachers teach me well. I could learn a topic quickly and easily most of the time. Lastly, there are a lot of fun things to do here, like sports. I love the big gym where I can play and run around. I was so happy that I could join the volleyball team last year, which I couldn't do before. My favorite thing about Immanuel is the great friends and teachers. - Jaden Fructuoso



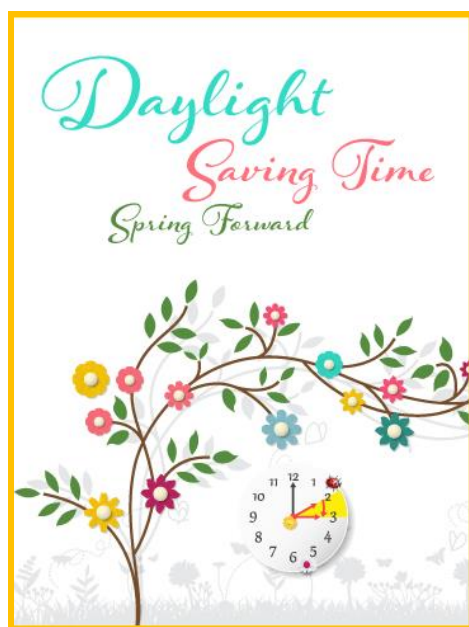
Thanks to a generous donation and sponsorship from “**No Child Goes Hungry**”, Immanuel’s PYHT ministry announces the installation (in March) of our own “Little Free Pantry”. The pantry will be located facing the North parking lot towards the front of the Church and will allow anyone to “Take what you need-Leave what you can” from the food cabinet. We received funding to build two units. One unit will be donated to another LCMS Church, PYHT will provide food donations for both! Thanks be to God for this impact on our Communities.

Community Garden

A new garden season begins this month! If you are interested in a garden bed, speak with Tom Czubernat.



Movie Night - The Stewardship Commission is bringing back Movie Night. It will take place in the sanctuary and we will follow the same safety guidelines as those used during worship. The first night will be **Friday March 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** We will show the series The Chosen. We plan to show two episodes each evening for a total of four nights.



Don't forget to forward your clock one hour at 2am on March 14, 2021 marking the beginning of Daylight Savings Time.





Spring Food Pantry Dates

MARCH 6 & 20, APRIL 3 & 17, MAY 1, 15 & 29
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Safe Drive-Thru Distribution. Free and Open to All.
Put Your Hands Together Food Outreach

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.

MARCH

1 Matthew 6:5-15	16 Psalm 3
2 Colossians 4:2-18	17 Psalm 4
3 James 5:7-20	18 Psalm 5
4 Jude 17-25	19 Psalm 6
5 Psalm 85	20 Psalm 7
6 Psalm 86	Fifth Sunday in Lent
Third Sunday in Lent	21 Psalm 9
7 Numbers 14:1-25	22 Psalm 10
8 Psalm 80	23 Psalm 11
9 2 Samuel 22:1-20	24 Psalm 12
10 2 Samuel 22:21-51	25 Psalm 13
11 1 Kings 8:22-30	26 Psalm 16
12 1 Kings 8:31-40	27 Psalm 31
13 1 Kings 8:41-53	Palm Sunday
Fourth Sunday in Lent	28 Matthew 21:1-11
14 1 Kings 8:54-61	29 Matthew 21:12-22
15 Habakkuk 3:1-9	30 Matthew 26:17-35

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. Joe & Lisa Chioda
2. Detrall Dearbone
3. The Deombeleg Family
4. Laprika Duff & Jayla Pernel
5. Arlene Gasperich
6. The Hadler Family
7. Steve Hadler
8. Steve & Lucretia Hardy
9. Evelyn Haynes
10. Corinne Hein
11. The Hempel Family
12. Violet Horn
13. Sandra Houle
14. The Iacovetti Family
15. Dorothy Ivers
16. The Karpierz Family
17. Clyde & Omie Lane
18. Becky Lelingis
19. The Lepe Family
20. The Mannella Family
21. The Mazanek Family
22. Virginia Mazanek
23. Lloyd & Toni Mooney
24. Ed & Karen Mulvihill
25. Heidi Murphy
26. Kathy Nelson
27. Lynda Nickl
28. Irene Niko
29. Mike & Carol Northcutt
30. Phyllis Ondrovic
31. Mindy Ondrovic

For the Record

Nothing to report



March Birthdays

6 - Karen Sierawski	20 - Valerie Winston
6 - Harold Zedler	22 - Hortencia Perez
7 - Bob Brown	23 - Lynne Hempel
7 - Tom Czubernat	24 - Teagan Bozzi
11 - Carol Northcutt	26 - Leonard Sierawski
11 - Sandra Houle	28 - Aissa Perez
13 - Heather Hempel	31 - Bud Boese
15 - Rose Slagle	31 - Tannah Bozzi
16 - Kari Fencel	

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 3pm Faculty Meeting	4	5 NO SCHOOL	6 11am - 1pm PYHT Food Pantry
7 9:30am Worship HC Followed by Bible Study	8 Open Enrollment Immanuel Christian Academy	9	10 8:15am Chapel 7pm Lenten Service	11	12	13
14 - Scrip Orders DLST Begins 9:30am Worship Followed by Bible Study	15 ICA's Lutheran Schools Week Begins Graduation Picture Re-takes	16	17 8:15am Chapel 7pm Lenten Service St. Patrick's Day	18 Informer Submissions Due	19 NO SCHOOL	20 - 1st Day of Spring 11am - 1pm PYHT Food Pantry
21 9:30am Worship HC Followed by Bible Study	22	23	24 8:15am Chapel 7pm Lenten Service	25	26	27
28 - Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship Followed by Bible Study	29	30	31 8:15am Chapel	1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday NO SCHOOL	3

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RETURN REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

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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*