



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

October 2021

Volume 17, Issue 4

The Hiddenness of God

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

"Truly you are a God who hides himself" (Isaiah 45:15).

Reading the above verse, some of you may think, "boy, that's an understatement!" And with all that is happening in our world today you must admit that God sometimes seems far away. Who knows how many times people have asked, "where is God?" Like the police officer you wish was there to catch the person running the red light, many today are asking that very question. They look around and see the world unraveling and ask, "can it get any worse?" Everyone believes that things have never been this bad before and I am sure that every generation has asked these questions.

I would now like to share with you a section from the book "The Spirituality of the Cross" by Gene Edward Veith, a former Professor of English at Concordia University Mequon, WI. This book has had an impact on me because Mr. Veith has a gift for explaining what Lutherans believe in very practical terms. Regarding the hiddenness of God, he writes:

People today who seek to be spiritual must confess that God sometimes seems far away. The ordinariness of everyday life, the material burdens that one must live through, the routines, and the practical preoccupations of life often smother any sense of transcendence. And then there is the fact of actual suffering. When we face failure or disease or loss of a loved one or the prospect of our own long and lingering death, we raise the agonizing question, where is God now?

The prophet Isaiah—in the midst of national apostasy, political collapse, and divine judgment, concludes, "Truly you are a God who hides himself" (Isaiah 45:15). To say God is hidden, of course, does not mean that He's absent. On the contrary, someone who is hidden is actually present, just not seen. The child who is hiding in the room is certainly there. God conceals Himself, often in things that we would least expect—a crucified criminal, a book, water, bread, wine, a gouty pastor, trials and suffering, human beings working and raising their families. (p. 56)

The hiddenness of God is a profound theme in Lutheran spirituality and Veith explains it well. It is part of what is called "the theology of the cross," or what we might refer to as the spirituality of the cross. It focuses on the work of Jesus, His presence, and how we are drawn closer to Him. It deals with all the troubles we Christians are experiencing in this life. The Bible has much to say about the various trials and tribulations that come with living in this sin-sick world.

If you are asking "where is God?" or "can it get any worse?" I can give you no better advice than to begin the practice of daily devotion and participating in weekly worship. We tend to look to what the culture offers for answers to life's problems when all along God is calling us to Himself. *"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love..." (Joel 2:13).*

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, reminds us of who we truly are when he says, *"My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).* In a world turned upside down, remember that God works in a hidden way to keep you, His child, firm in the faith, through His Word and Sacraments. God provides this for you. Take it! Hold on tight! God is nearer than you think. Amen.

In the Fellowship and Love of Christ,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

PANTRY UPDATE

Grants, Awards, Cash Donations: \$360

Stella Gonzalez: \$50.00

Harold Zedler: \$100.00

Lavergne Guadagno: \$100.00

Free-Will Offerings: \$110.00

New Grants Written: 0

Pending Grant Applications: 2

New Distribution Partnerships:

Grace & Peace Church-Chicago

Food Rescue US

Federal Meals Program Advocacy:

Enrolled: 1

Advocacy, Promotion, Advertising, Impressions:

1,300,019 people

PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:

Over 13 days this month we received 22 donations of food, beverages & supplies

9/3 Mobile Food Pantry: Youth Crossroads

9/9 Hurricane IDA Relief (4 pallets beverages, snacks)

9/11 PYHT Food Pantry

9/14 Mobile Pantry: Youth Crossroads

9/17 Mobile Pantry: Hope Chicago Church

9/23 Mobile Pantry: Youth Crossroads, Inner City Impact

9/24 Mobile Pantry: Hope Chicago Church & Academy

9/28 Mobile Pantry scheduled: Youth Crossroads-Berwyn

Summary, August 2021:

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served: 102

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Individuals Served: 377

PYHT Food Relief Agencies-Ministries Served: Hope Chicago Church & Academy, Inner City Impact, Youth Crossroads, Breakfast with Baby, Immanuel Lutheran Church-DesPlaines, Westchester Food Pantry, Grace & Peace Church-Chicago, Fight2Feed, Food Rescue US, NID-LCMS Ethnic Ministries Event 9/25.

Volunteer Hours: 140

Food Donations Rcvd. & Re-Distributed: 12,000 lbs. food/beverages

Mobile Food Pantry Events: 8

Total Families Served this month: 800+

Volunteer Stipends Paid Out: \$600

Note:

Put Your Hands Together Food Ministry continues to serve record numbers of families and individuals each month. We are grateful to have had the supplies to donate to National relief efforts for hurricane IDA victims, thanks to coordinated effort and transportation supplied by Food Rescue US and bottled water/beverages donated by Sysco & Norman Dist. We are pleased with our new donation partnership with Costco-Melrose Park for the variety and frequency of donated food, water, beverages, household, and personal care products that we rescue and share with our congregation, school, and other ministries.

Looking forward....please pray that our food needs are met for the upcoming months and through our added Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Distributions. Current food needs are posted in Immanuel Bulletin Insert. Please consider food and/or monetary donations to PYHT to help cover the costs of food and holiday turkeys. At the moment one freezer and all pantry coolers are empty and unplugged, hopefully cutting down a bit on the electric bill.

Funding:

New grant writing opportunities will start in February 2022. Current balance of funding is earmarked only for volunteer stipends, advertising, and truck rental fees to pick up food donations. There has been \$0 available for food purchases since May of this year; Jayne has personally invested \$3,500 of her retirement savings to cover the costs of food.

Game Plan:

- Pray, Pray, and Pray some more!
- Pre-Holiday Online Fundraising & Food Drives
- Lutheran Church Charities, funding request
- Seeking new donation partnerships for meat, dairy and pantry staples



The Steward's Lifestyle

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, our minds are being transformed so we may learn what God's will and purpose are for His stewards. We come to see that a good deed here and there is not what God wants of us or for us. God's word exhorts us, *"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is"* (Ephesians 5:17). Understanding the Lord's will involves looking at the way we view life, our whole human vocation, the ordering of our lives, and the deployment of all of God's blessings and seeing that all these are from God's gracious hand so that we may use them throughout each day as we go about our daily work to glorify Him and benefit others as well as ourselves. Just as Jesus came to do His Father's will (Hebrews 10:7), we are also called to do His will. *"But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* (James 1:22).

As Christians, we live our lives under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Being free from the law of sin, we now walk by the Holy Spirit Who causes us to live in Christ. Because God sent us His Son as our sin offering, we no longer *"live according to our sinful nature"* (Romans 8:4). Because our sinful nature no longer controls us, our lifestyles reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our minds are set on doing what the Spirit desires. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are taught to put off *"[our] old self, which belongs to [our] former manner of life and is corrupt...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness"* (Ephesians 4:22-23).

SCRIPTURE WARNS AGAINST PLACING OUR TRUST AND SECURITY IN OUR MONEY AND POSSESSIONS.

*"For what will it profit a man
if he gains the whole world
and forfeits his soul?*

Matthew 16:26



UNLESS WE COMMIT TO A PLAN OF GIVING, OUR GIVING WILL BE HAPHAZARD OR NOT AT ALL.

*"On the first day of every
week, each of you is to put
something aside and store it
up, as he may prosper..."*

1 Corinthians 16:2

Run the Race

"Let us throw off everything that hinders...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1b), exhorts the writer to the Hebrews. Perseverance is the key in our race. Scripture challenges us to stand firm, knowing that our labor for God is not in vain. We're commanded to hold fast to our faith and to keep God's ways. As we run the race with perseverance, we are filled with *"inexpressible and glorious joy"* (1 Peter 1:8) in our Savior in Whom we believe, even though we haven't seen Him. Although the race is long and difficult, we have an eternal goal and consider any suffering or distress but *"light and momentary troubles"* (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Shop with Scrip - Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for their church or school. 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 Immanuel. It's that simple! Order Forms are in the church hallway or enroll online: www.shopwithscrip.com Enrollment Code: 9D337C6F55761

Scrip is
fundraising
while you
shop!

shopwithscrip.com

Order Market Day Today!

Market Day is back and with home

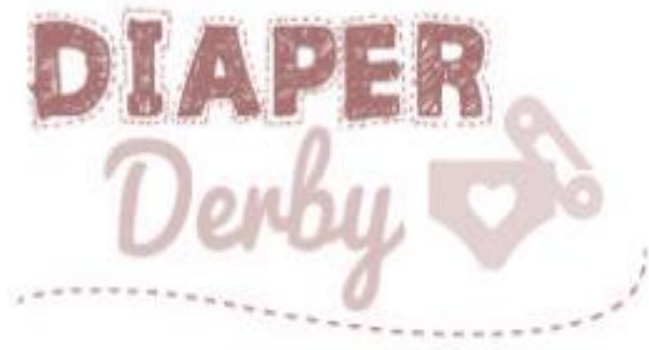
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www.marketdaylocal.com

Choose [Immanuel Christian Academy - Hillside](#)
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10%
OF EVERY PURCHASE
GOES TO SUPPORT OUR
SCHOOLS PTO!

Free Shipping on orders over \$119



This month, Immanuel will participate in Diaper Derby for families served by Caring Network. As a church, we will be collecting diapers, especially sizes 4, 5 & 6, wipes, lotions, soaps and gift cards to Walmart. Please bring in supplies by **October 31st** and leave them in the Narthex. Supplies benefit Caring Network's baby bank programs, providing material goods, parenting classes, and spiritual support to new parents in need.

Make an Impact Tax-Free

Did you know you can use your IRA to support Immanuel Lutheran Church and School today without paying income tax on the money? If you're 70½ or older, you can use the IRA charitable rollover (sometimes called the qualified charitable distribution or QCD) to make a tax-free gift to Immanuel Lutheran Church from your IRA. You can transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly to Immanuel Lutheran Church without paying income tax on the distribution. An added bonus: You'll have the satisfaction of seeing your gift in action during your lifetime.

MOVIE NIGHT

The Chosen - Season 2

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2317 S. Wolf Road, Hillside

Fridays

October 8

October 22

November 5

November 19

6:45pm Showtime

Doors open at 6:30pm



IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Eagle's Wings Valerie Winston

As we continue our faith walk this year, I am reminded of Isaiah 40:31 which says, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will walk and not be faint. Over the years I have seen or read this verse on numerous occasions as an athlete and a coach. This verse has been used as inspiration for those about to enter the court or field in an athletic competition. It has been used as encouragement to never give up, especially when faced with possible defeat.

There may be times when we feel defeated, especially in the last year or so. We've had to face the ever-changing issues with the pandemic, illness, loss of family or friends, accidents, loss or change of jobs, financial difficulties, and many other life-altering events. It is enough to truly make one weary and faint.

But when we grow tired and weary from those struggles and hardships in life, we know that Jesus has told us to come to Him when we are weary and burdened, because He will give us rest. When we struggle on our walk of faith, we need to remember Jesus' struggle on His walk to Calvary. We know that God is our strength when we are weak. We have hope in the Lord who will renew our strength. God will lift us up on wings like eagles.

We wait and hope in our Savior. God has promised to give us strength and to help us take comfort as we remember His promise. God will lift us up above our problems. He will give us wings to fly and we will soar above the horizon. God's strength and power will be our freedom and flight. As the hymn says, "He will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand."

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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.

October

1 Exodus 20:1-21	16 Isaiah 42:1-9
2 Exodus 23:1-13	17 Ezekiel 34:1-10
3 1 Corinthians 11:17-34	18 Ezekiel 34:11-31
4 Leviticus 19:1-18	19 Amos 5:1-27
5 Leviticus 19:19-37	20 Micah 3:1-12
6 Leviticus 25:1-17	21 Micah 6:6-16
7 Leviticus 25:18-34	22 Psalm 94
8 Leviticus 25:35-55	23 Romans 14:1-12
9 Ezra 6:1-12	24 Romans 14:13-23
10 Job 34:1-37	25 James 4:1-10
11 Isaiah 2:1-22	26 James 4:11-5:6
12 Isaiah 5:8-30	27 Matthew 23:1-12
13 Isaiah 26:1-21	28 Matthew 23:13-36
14 Isaiah 28:1-13	29 Matthew 25:31-46
15 Isaiah 28:14-29	30 Luke 3:1-20

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

For the Record - Nothing to report



October Birthdays

09 - Ed Mulvihill

09 - Leonard Bettin

15 - Irene Niko

15 - Susan Redis

17 - Macey Railing

21 - Jacob Blair

24 - Lucretia Hardy

26 - Chris Thomas

27 - Julie Hadler


27 - Doretha Brown

28 - Steven Deombeleg



October 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Appreciation - Encourage and Pray! I said a prayer for you today and know God must have heard. I felt the answer in my heart although He spoke no word. I didn't ask for wealth or fame, I knew you wouldn't mind. I asked Him to send treasurers of a far more lasting kind. I asked that He'd be near you at the start of each new day. To grant you health and blessings and friends to share your way. I asked for happiness for you in all things great and small. But it was for His loving care I prayed the most of all.						
3 - 9:30 Worship HC 10:30 Coffee hour 11:15am Bible Study	4	5	6 8:15 Chapel 7:30 Choir	7	8 Food Drive Drop off 6:30 pm Movie Night The Chosen Season 2	9 9am Garden Work Day PYHT Food Pantry
10 - Pastor Appreciation Day / Scrip Orders Due 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee hour 11:15am Bible Study	11 School Spirit Week	12 School Spirit Week	13 School Spirit Week 8:15 Chapel 7:30 Choir	14 School Spirit Week	15 Food Drive Drop off No School Teacher Work Day	16 Garden Talk at the OSH "Pumpkins!"
17 - 9:30 Worship HC 10:30 Coffee 11:15am Bible Study	18	19	20 8:15 Chapel 7:30 Choir	21	22 Food Drive Drop off 6:30 pm Movie Night The Chosen Season 2	23 9am Garden Work Day
24 - 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee hour 11:15am Bible Study	25 	26	27 8:15 Chapel 7:30 Choir	28	29 Food Drive Drop off	30
31 - Reformation Sunday 9:30 Worship HC 10:30 Coffee hour 11:15am 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.icahillside.org



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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*