



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

February 2025

Volume 20, Issue 8

Using our Abilities for God's Purpose

This month we will be offering our stewardship emphasis, **Stewards Living with Purpose**. Through faith, we understand that we were made by God and for God. God's amazing love is seen in His creation and in His desire to have all people live with Him for eternity. To fulfill His purpose, God gives us different abilities and talents in all areas of life so that we may do His work. Not only is God the source of our abilities and talents, He gives us motivation to develop them and opportunities to use them in His service. Whether we are given many or few abilities, we can be thankful for what we receive and use our gifts to extend His kingdom and in service to others.

God wants us to be productive people. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10). God wants people to be *"zealous for good works"* (Titus 2:14). He does not appreciate laziness, idleness, or fruitlessness. He calls us to bear fruit (John 15:16), to serve (Ephesians 6:7), to give (Matthew 10:8), to love (Matthew 22:37-38), to witness (Ephesians 3:7), and to obey (John 14:23). God seeks people through whom He can work. Through our lips, He tells others of His life-saving Gospel; through our hands and feet, He brings love and care to those in need; and through our minds, hearts, and checkbooks, He financially supports the work of the Church

As Christians, we are called into ministry. Through faith, we become more than just spectators. We are God's representatives who are called to serve, just as our Master, Jesus, ministered to the people of His time. *"For I have given you an example that you also should do as I have done for you"* (John 13:15). Our ministries take place wherever we are. Rev. Robert Morris in his book *Beyond Blessed* wrote, "I believe the Bible calls us to live our life on mission. Living on mission means that we don't focus on ourselves and our desires but on what God is doing in the world and how we can partner with His work."

As God's people, we are to use what we've been given in service for the Lord and to bring glory to Him. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to resist the temptation to use our time, abilities, and money for our own purposes. The Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament enables us to use all of our blessings according to God's plan and for His glory. We are not given the same or equal abilities or opportunities. We are called only to serve our Lord as He equips and enables us.

Serving Christ Together,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

Stewards
LIVING WITH
Purpose

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

Let your Light Shine

The Bible says, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in Heaven"; (Matthew 5:16). The question we must ask is, "How clearly and how brightly are we reflecting Christ in our lives?"

There are lots of things that diminish our reflections. Willful disobedience to God's will, unconfessed sin in our lives, grudges and anger, grief, and guilt diminish and tarnish our reflections. God designed us to be reflections of Him, and what is happening in our lives, in our hearts, in our minds, and in our actions affects the brightness of the reflections.

God wants us to be His light, so others will be drawn not to us, but to Jesus, the "light of the world" (John 8:12). The depth of our own relationships with God matters a lot when it comes to letting His light shine!

We are busy with numerous activities, things that are important to us, and rightly so. We are going to be investing our time and energy in many things, yet each of us needs to ask, "How much am I investing in the lives of others?" Do you know someone who is struggling in his faith or has no relationship at all with Jesus? One of the most valuable things you could do is to strengthen your relationship with Christ and strengthen your relationship with that person. Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for that person and to help you be a reflection of Jesus that can turn him toward Jesus.

Of all the things we could invest ourselves in, of all the things we could exchange our time or energy for, there is nothing more valuable than investing in people to help them know Jesus Christ. It is an investment that lasts forever.

May we all let God's light shine through us to others.

**TO GIVE GENEROUSLY,
WE PLACE OUR TRUST
IN THE LORD.**

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding"
(Proverbs 3:5).**

AND IS ABLE
GOD *to make all*
GRACE
ABOUND TOWARD YOU
THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVING ALL
SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS
MAY HAVE AN ABUNDANCE
for >>> **GOOD**
EVERY **WORK**
2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 (NKJV)

**JESUS WANTS US TO SPEND
TIME IN PRAYER, AND HE
PROMISES TO HEAR AND
ANSWER OUR PRAYERS.**

**"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;"
(1 Thessalonians 5:16).**



*Pray &
Without
Ceasing*



BE A

LIGHT

FOR ALL

TO SEE

Put Your Hands Together



A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 2025 News Report

PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:

Grants Written: Batterman Grant Extension,

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Received: 20,530 Lbs.

Monetary Donations: \$195.00

Food Ministry Service Events: 4

Direct Families Served: 101 families

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served: Westchester FP, Berwyn FP, St. Paul

Oak Lawn, St. Lukes, Downers Grove Comm Kitchen, Elmwood Park FP, Youth Crossroads, Elmhurst FP, Fight2Feed.

NEWS: The New Year has started out with an arctic chill and made it difficult to conduct pantry business, but thanks be to God that He provided a bounty of food. Thanks also to some new product donors and to the airlines for their generosity.

Thank You Volunteers:

Heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, making it a pleasure to serve God's people with you for another year. Special thanks to our volunteers who come extra early on distribution days, easing my burden at a stressful time. Tina Alicia, Evan Nelson, Ed Mulvihill, Mike & Julie Hadler, Randy Weeks, Scott & Susan Mazanek, Ron Siou, and more... **Thank you** for your support of funds, donated food, and your valuable time to our Food Ministry!

Fundraising help is needed: Please consider making a recurring donation to our food pantry online, through REALM. A small monthly donation of \$25.00 or more can make a huge difference in our pantry sustainability and help cover the many expenses we incur each month.

Expansion Project Update: Postponed until further notice. Steel Building and construction have been cancelled, a small refund of \$500 from our \$3,500 deposit is allowed.

We Need Paper Grocery Bags.

Please keep bringing them in!

Upcoming Dates: HELP NEEDED

Saturday, February 8th Pantry Day

Monday, March 2nd Food Bank Unloading

Saturday, March 8th Pantry Day

Saturday, April 12th SHINE EVENT

Pantry Day



BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

**FEB. 20,
6PM**

**AFRICAN
AMERICANS
AND THE ARTS**

This year, we will host a Living Wax Museum focusing on African Americans and the Arts. We will also honor our 8th grade students with the “Young People Coming to Adulthood Ceremony”. The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. on February 20, 2025. Please join us!

IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

SAVE THE DATE!

Lutheran School’s Week begins March 9, 2025 with Open House Sunday!

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY

MARCH 9, 2025

PreK - 8th Grade

Join us for worship at 9:30 a.m. followed
by fellowship.

Classroom visits 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

www.icahillside.org



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 - Sharing God’s Love

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 13:1–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Hosea 2:2–23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 13:21–35 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Hosea 3:1–4:3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 1 John 1:1–10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Hosea 4:4–19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 1 John 2:1–17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Hosea 6:1–7:2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 1 John 2:18–29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Hosea 8:1–14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 1 John 3:1–10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Hosea 9:1–14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 1 John 3:11–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Hosea 9:15–10:15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 1 John 4:1–6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Hosea 11:1–11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 1 John 4:7–21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Hosea 11:12–12:14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 1 John 5:1–12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Hosea 13:1–16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 1 John 5:13–21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Hosea 14:1–9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 2 John 1–13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Psalm 136 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 3 John 1–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Psalm 138 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Hosea 1:1–2:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Romans 8:18–39 |

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. *School Families in italics.*

1. Detrall Dearbone
2. The Deombeleg Family
3. Laprika Duff & Jayla Pernell
4. Arlene Gasperich
5. Lisa Gasperich
6. Stella Gonzalez
7. The Hadler Family
8. Steve Hadler
9. Evelyn Haynes
10. Corinne Hein
11. *The Harris / Stines Family*
12. The Hempel Family
13. *The Henderson Family*
14. *The Hiner Family*
15. *The Honey Family*
16. Sandra Houle
17. The Iacovetti Family
18. Dorothy Ivers
19. *The Jackson Family*
20. *The Johnson Family*
21. *The Jones Family*
22. *The Kelley / Telford Family*
23. The Karpierz Family
24. Clyde & Omie Lane
25. Becky Lelingis
26. The Lepe Family
27. The Mannella Family
28. Pat Mauney

**For the Record
Nothing to report**

February Birthdays

1 - Donn Hempel
1 - Jeffrey Bettin
2 - Zion Smith, 8th Grade
4 - Joanna Czubernat

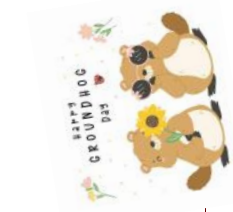
5 - Bella Gerard, Kindergarten
7 - Raniya Gipson, 7th Grade
10 - Barb Arndt
17 - Evelyn Haynes

19 - Bryanna Ortiz
21 - Rev. Steve Simon
28 - Noah Johnson, 2nd Grade

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1



2	9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	3	MAP Testing Continues 3pm Basketball Practice	4	5:30pm Day School Meeting	5	3pm Faculty Meeting 7:30 Adult Choir	6	7am Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting 3pm Basketball Practice	7	8:25am Late Start 1:30pm Pep Rally 4pm Basketball Game HOME 7pm Adult Volleyball	8	11am Food Pantry
9 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship Day School Choir Sings 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	10	4pm Basketball Game HOME 11:15am Bible Study	11	Spring Pictures Graduation Pictures 4pm Basketball Game HOME 5:30pm PTL Meeting	12	3pm Cheer Practice 7:30 Adult Choir	13	7am Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting 4:30pm Basketball Game HOME	14	8:25am Late Start	15		
16	9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	17	NO SCHOOL	18	4pm Basketball Game AWAY	19	3pm Cheer Practice 7:30 Adult Choir	20	7am Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting 6pm Black History Program	21	8:25am Late Start Basketball Game AWAY 7pm Adult Volleyball	22	
23	9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	24		25	7:30 Adult Choir	26		27		28	8:25am Late Start End of Trimester		

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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*