



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

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“Immanuel’s Shining Light”

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matt 5:14, 16).

It’s September already—can you believe it? Where did the summer go? Comments like these are normal this time of year. September is about transitioning from summer to fall. Yet, September is known for other transitions as well: returning to work from vacation, returning to school from summer break and returning to a normal church schedule. Our brief summer season slowly shifts and once again we are on the move. That’s what it means to transition—to move from one significant moment to another making the necessary changes that life demands.

Therefore, please join us Sunday September 8th at 9:30 a.m. as we transition into a new school year by dedicating the teachers of Immanuel Christian Academy. We will ask for God’s Blessing on them as they begin the amazing work of shining their light (the Light of Christ) to their students and families. Immanuel Christian Academy is where students and their families learn of Jesus and His love for them. Your presence in church that morning will speak volumes as our teachers, students, and families see you come before the Lord in prayer for them.

In addition, both school and adult choirs enhance our worship experience with their beautiful voices. As school families join us they bring with them an added level of enthusiasm that we all long for. As the psalmist says,

“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” (*Psalm 95:1-2*)

As we reflect on our vision statement, *“Glorifying God by Impacting Our Community,”* I would like to give a special thanks to Amos and Carol Gray who brought an amazing Youth Explosion Event to Immanuel on August 17th. The next day Pastor Gray preached a powerful sermon that spoke to both our school and our congregation. Please visit our YouTube Channel if you missed it. And of course, please keep all our ministries in your prayers: ICA (school), PYHT (food panty), OSGC (community garden). These ministries *“Glorify God and Impact Our Community”* in great and wonderful ways.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you who give of your time, talent, and treasure in other areas of the church and school. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Together as the body of Christ we continue to move forward doing great things for God! The Lord is with us. Stand firm in your faith, trust that God will see us through, pray always for God’s will to be done and the Lord will certainly bear fruit in our midst.

To God be All the Glory,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

STEWARDSHIP IS THE WAY WE REFLECT OUR CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES—OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND MONEY.

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.
1 Corinthians 4:2



JUST AS CHRIST WAS OBEDIENT TO DEATH ON THE CROSS, WE ARE TO BE OBEDIENT TO HIS CALL TO FOLLOW HIM

Jesus said, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men'.
Mark 1:17

Stewardship Corner

A theme the Apostle Paul returns to often throughout his letters in the New Testament is that of putting off the Old Adam and putting on the New Self. Get rid of those things that are a hindrance to your life in Christ. *"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. And be thankful"* (Colossians 3:2, 15). Focusing on temporal problems, we tend to get bogged down. Setting our minds on things above, however, we cannot but be thankful for all God is and all He has done and continues to do for us in Christ.

Money Is/Is Not Everything

How do you respond to the question, "Is money everything?" Are you trying to achieve a quality life by focusing on money or on God? Jesus spoke often about money because He knew that it has the power to control us. Jesus tells us *"No one can serve two masters, for either He will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money"* (Matthew 6:24).

It is so easy to have the attitude that we, rather than God, own the things we possess. Didn't our hard work and sweat make it possible for us to have the money needed to acquire all that we have? Since our names are on the titles of our cars and houses, doesn't that mean that we own those things? Our tendency is to believe that we deserve credit for what we have done to accumulate our money and our material possessions. We can become arrogant and full of pride in what we have accomplished.

Only through God's gift of faith are we able to understand and accept the words of Psalm 24:1: *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."* We read in Haggai, *"The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine," declares the Lord of hosts* (Haggai 2:8). The Apostle Paul tells us, *"What do you have*

that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). We merely manage the money and possessions that He entrusts to us. God is the owner.

How we view the ownership issue of our money and possessions will be the biggest factor in how we answer the question, "Is money everything?" When we regard God as owner and ourselves as stewards, we are more willing to relinquish control of our money to the Lord.

Maintaining a proper view of money and possessions and managing them in God-pleasing ways are serious challenges that we all face. By God's providence, we have and make different amounts of money, but we all deal with the same questions:

- *Am I acknowledging God as Owner and myself as steward of His resources?*
- *How should I spend my money?*
- *What portion is the Lord calling me to give?*

When God has first place in our lives rather than money and what money can buy, a big obstacle to an intimate relationship with Jesus has been eliminated. Of all the tools that Satan uses to separate us from a relationship with the Lord, money is possibly the tool that he uses more than any other. Satan wants to make money our identity, security, and purpose. With God's wisdom and strength, we can have a faithful perspective toward money and say emphatically, "Money is not everything!"

Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hillside

Private & Online Donations: \$ 620.00

Pending Grant Applications: (3)

Grant Awards: (1) In Kind Donation-MGM Resorts

New Grants Written: (1)

PYHT Food Distributions & Activity:

**In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Received:
57,069 Lbs.**

Food Ministry Service Events: 9

Direct Families Served: 173

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served:

Westchester FP, Berwyn FP, St. Paul Oak Lawn, St. Lukes, Downers Grove Comm Kitchen, Interim Housing Center DuPage, Abundant Children & Family Service Agency, Berwyn Food Pantry.

NEWS:

Upcoming Dates & Holiday Events:

HELP NEEDED

Monday, September 9th: Midwest Food Bank Unloading-
HELP NEEDED

Saturday, September 14th: Pantry Day

Saturday, November 23rd Thanksgiving Distribution

Saturday, December 14th Christmas Distribution (Regular Saturday)

PYHT Biggest Product Donation:

MGM Resorts

On Aug 15th we received our largest in-kind donation ever through grant application from MGM Resorts, all personal care products, valued at \$499,026.00. All products were donated to Midwest Food Bank, Normal, IL.

Volunteers, we appreciate you! We couldn't do it without you! Thank you to our newest volunteers this month, Christine & Phyllis. Special thanks to Donn and Alicia for helping during Summer Break!

We Need Paper Grocery Bags:

Recycle your paper grocery bags at the pantry so we can save money on purchasing them. Plain paper bags, with or without handles are needed!

Fundraising help is needed: Please consider making a recurring donation to our food pantry online, through REALM. A small monthly donation of \$25 or more can make a huge difference in our pantry sustainability and helps cover the many expenses we incur each month.

Expansion Project Update: No progress can be made without an official board of directors, please see Jayne Siou if you are interested or have questions about coming on-board.



Please pray for continued guidance and support of our expansion project, Food Ministry Partners and for all volunteers! THANK YOU!

Community Garden Update

This year, the community garden has harvested and shared 907 pounds of produce with our food pantry clients and the Westchester Food Pantry. Last year at this time, we had harvested 664 pounds. Thank you for supporting the community garden.





Welcome Back to School!

As we begin another school year at Immanuel Christian Academy, we're reminded of the special calling we have as a Christ-centered community. Whether your child is just starting in Pre-K or preparing for their final year in 8th grade, we're thrilled to partner with you in nurturing their growth—spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally.

Our theme for this year is "Our Mission is Fishin'" inspired by Jesus' call to His disciples in Matthew 4:19, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Just as Jesus invited His disciples to join Him in spreading the Good News, we aim to instill in our students a heart for service and a desire to share the love of Christ with others.

Our dedicated teachers and staff have spent the summer preparing to create an environment where every student feels valued, loved, and encouraged to reach their full potential. Through our curriculum and daily interactions, we strive to equip our students to be modern-day disciples, ready to cast their nets and make a positive impact on the world around them.

For example, we started the year in late July with an ice cream social to introduce everyone to our new school staff and events. This year, we will engage in student clubs. Also, we have already hosted Reverend Amos Gray and his wife, Carol, as our school's community coaches. They hosted our first youth explosion for our students and families. Teachers, the Day School Commission, and Elders also received training. Teachers also attended off campus in-service events and trainings. Last week we started our sports program. So, come cheer our Cardinals on at their first volleyball game Tuesday, September 3rd, at 4:00 p.m. We are committed to providing a safe and supportive atmosphere where faith and learning go hand in hand.

As we return to school, I encourage you to pray for a year filled with growth, joy, and discovery. Thank you to the Day School Commission, our First Day Welcome Committee, and all others who have contributed to the school thus far this year for your dedication. Together, let us follow Christ's call to be "fishers of men," shining His light in all we do.

May God bless our students, families, and staff as we embark on this new journey together.

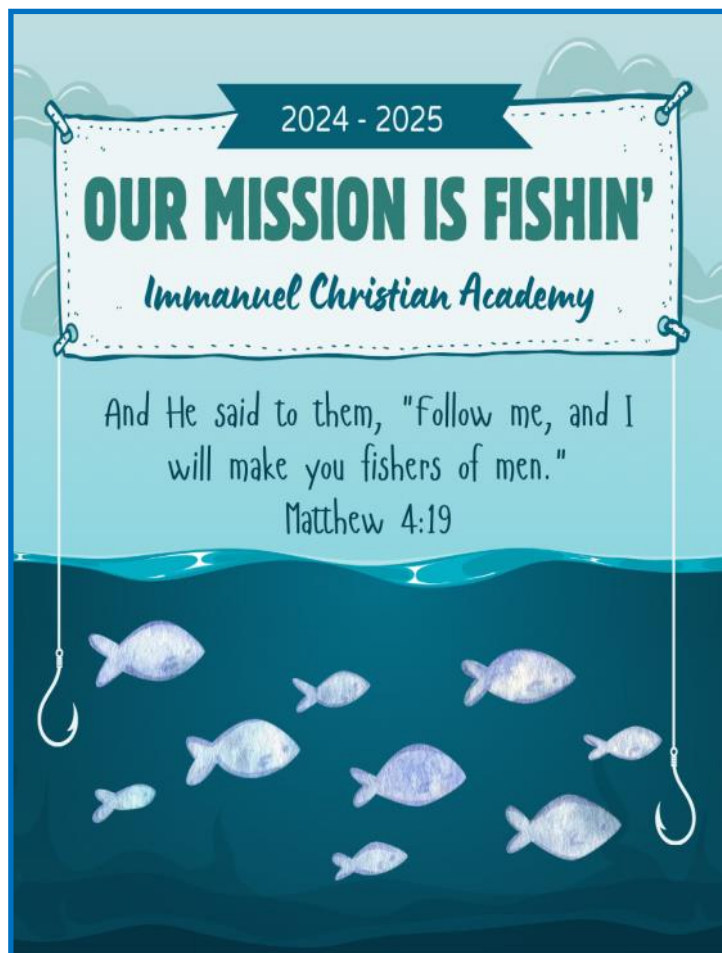
Welcome back to school!

In Christ,

Dr. Jackson, Principal, Immanuel Christian Academy

Raise Right - 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 Raise Right Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for Immanuel. It's that simple!

Order Forms are located in the church hallway or can enroll online to order: <https://www.raiseright.com/shop>



Christian Education Sunday: September 8

Please come hear the children of Immanuel Christian Academy sing on Christian Education Sunday. All students are invited to participate in church services at Immanuel as we also rededicate our teachers. Service starts at 9:30 a.m. Food and Fellowship will follow, hosted by the Day School Commission.

Party with the Pastor. September 15

Join us September 15th to celebrate Pastor Steve's birthday and his 10 year anniversary at Immanuel Lutheran Church! Plan to stay after worship for food and fellowship hosted by the Women's Ministry!

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 - Wisdom

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Mark 4:1–9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Psalm 119:33–48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Mark 4:10–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Psalm 119:49–64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Mark 4:21–34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Psalm 119:65–80 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Mark 6:1–13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Psalm 119:81–96 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Mark 7:1–13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Psalm 119:97–112 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mark 7:14–23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Psalm 119:113–128 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 1 Kings 3:1–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Psalm 119:129–144 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 1 Kings 3:16–28 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Psalm 119:145–160 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Psalm 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Psalm 119:161–176 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Psalm 49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 James 1:1–27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Proverbs 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 James 2:1–26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Proverbs 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 James 3:1–18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Proverbs 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 James 4:1–17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Proverbs 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 James 5:1–20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Psalm 119:1–16 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Psalm 119:17–32 | |

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. Brett Willis
2. Valerie Winston
3. *The Woodruff Family*
4. *The Wright Family*
5. *The Aguirre Family*
6. Tina Alicea
7. *The Anderson Family*
8. Ron & Barb Arndt
9. Susan Arnold
10. Taylor Balslew
11. Bell Family
12. *The Bertacchi Family*
13. Jennifer Bettin
14. Jeffrey Bettin
15. Karen Bimler
16. The Blair Family
17. Christine Bost
18. Bozzi Family
19. *The Brantley-Cruz Family*
20. Ruth Anne Brendemuhl
21. Bob Brown
22. Doretha Brown & Rashaad Smith
23. *The Burks Family*
24. *The Caldwell Family*
25. Joe & Lisa Chioda
26. *Coe / Brown Family*
27. *The Davis Family*
28. Detrall Dearbone
29. *The Diaz / Cua Family*
30. The Deombeleg Family

For the Record
Nothing to Report



September Birthdays

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - Gloria Rubietta | 08 - <i>Zariah Thomas 3rd Grade</i> | 18 - Pastor Steve | 28 - Omie Lane |
| 2 - Ruth Anne Brendemuhl | 09 - Grace Hadler | 19 - Mindy Ondrovic | 29 - Joan Rundgren |
| 3 - Joe Chioda | 10 - Maxwell Railing | 19 - Arlene Gasperich | 26 - <i>Corie Woodruff</i> |
| 3 - Lapricka Duff | 13 - Dot Schneider | 21 - Selena Perez | 29 - <i>Kamryn Perry 2nd Grade</i> |
| 4 - Barbara Brown | 13 - <i>Cary Davis Kindergarten</i> | 21 - <i>Dr. Vickie Casanova</i> | 30 - Suzie Lepe |
| 4 - Sheila Railing | 17 - Tim Bell | <i>Willis</i> | |
| | 17 - Lisa Chioda | 26 - Clyde Lane | |

September 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 9:30am Worship HC 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Mission Trip Presentation	2 NO SCHOOL Labor Day	3 4pm Volleyball HOME 5:30pm Day School Meeting	4 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	5	6 4pm Volleyball AWAY @ LaGrange	7 9am - Noon Garden Work Day
8 - Christian Ed Sunday 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study Scrip Order Due	9	10 4pm Volleyball HOME 5pm PTL Meeting 6PM Church Council Meeting	11 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	12 6pm Back to School Night	13 4pm Volleyball HOME	14 11am - Food Pantry Distribution
15 9:30am Worship HC 10:30 Fellowship Celebration for Pastor Steve	16	17 4pm Volleyball HOME	18 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	19 6pm Elders Meeting	20 4pm Volleyball AWAY @ Bensenville	21 9am - Noon Garden Work Day
22 - <i>Diaper Derby</i> <i>Begins</i> 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00am Voters Meeting	23	24 School Picture Day	25 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	26	27 4pm Volleyball AWAY @ Burr Ridge	28
29 9:30am Worship HC 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	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

Rev. Steve Deombeleg, Pastor

ilcpastor@immanuel-hillside.org

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708-562-5580 ext. 200

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music

dhempel@immanuel-hillside.org

Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 205

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Dr. Patricia Jackson, Principal

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