



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

January 2022

Volume 17, Issue 7

Trust in God Alone!

⁵ *For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.*

⁶ *He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.*

⁷ *On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.*

⁸ *Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.*

(Psalm 6:5-8).

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

These words from King David are fitting for us as we begin a new year. Like a roadmap showing a path from point A to point B, God's Word speaks to us daily, showing us how we move from unbeliever to believer, from condemnation to salvation, from an unsatisfied life to new life in Christ. These words give us perspective, they help us to see clearly, to focus (or refocus) on what is most important in this life. And after experiencing another difficult year, it is good to hear words that keep us moving in the right direction—closer to God.

As disciples of Jesus, we follow and learn from Him on this lifelong journey. Our faith is strengthened by His Word, regular participation in the Lord's Supper, prayer, and living out our faith by serving our neighbor. As we continue following Christ in this new year let us return to the words of David in Psalm 62. These words, and all of Scripture, will continue to provide what we need on this journey—hope, comfort, strength, and encouragement.

A traditional foldout map can only give so much information. It can't warn you about a washed-out road or a fallen tree or any other danger that lies ahead. Likewise, in real life, we don't exactly know what lies ahead in the year 2022. We would love to see 2021 disappear in our rearview mirror, a year filled with much discord, distrust, and disappointment. But then, "objects in mirror are closer than they appear." We don't know what 2022 will bring, many are not optimistic, so take these words of Psalm 62 to heart. It is time to listen to God and "Trust in him at all times, O people." Remember, only God is your "rock and salvation." He is your "fortress", and you will not be shaken during tumultuous times. "Pour out your heart" to Him in prayer, "God is a refuge for us," a place of safety in this life and eternally in the life to come.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a place of refuge that God has provided for you. If you stayed away from church in 2021, then I urge you to return to the Lord's house. God loves you—He holds you in His hand and His desire is that you gather with other believers for worship. You are secure and have nothing to fear. Trust Him!

²⁴ *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)*

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

Put Your Hands Together

theran Church-Rockford, Danville Penitentiary **New Donation Partnerships:** National Food Group, Project 22:9, Costco-North Riverside, Great American Bagels-Western Springs & Westmont, People's Resource Center (PRC), Care For Real-Chicago, St. Barbara's Food Pantry-Brookfield.

Cash & Online Donations: \$1,250 + \$50 in gift cards
New Grants Written: 0 **Pending Grant Applications:** 1
New Distribution Partnerships: (2) Resurrection Lu-

PYHT Food Distributions & Activity: Summary, December 2021

In-Kind Food Donations: 37 deliveries and donation pickups **A NEW RECORD**

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Families Served: Dec. 11th 112 Christmas

PYHT Pop Up-Pantry Individuals Served: Dec. 22nd 105 Christmas

PYHT Food Relief Agencies-Ministries Served: Hope Chicago Church & Academy, Inner City Impact, Youth Crossroads, Westchester Food Pantry, Lyons Church, St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen, Leyden Township Food Pantry, Immanuel-DesPlaines, St. Paul-Oak Lawn, BEDS Plus-LaGrange, Housing Forward, Food Rescue US, Breakfast with Baby-Carol Stream, LaSalle Street Church, Fight2Feed, Village of Hillside, Christ the King-Chicago, Lombard Food Pantry, Chicago Heights Pantry, Resurrection Lutheran Church-Rockford, City of Rockford, Danville Penitentiary.

Volunteer Hours: 322 **A NEW RECORD**

Food Donations Rcvd. & Re-Distributed: 109,000 lbs! **A NEW RECORD Mobile Food Pantry Events: 2+**

Total Families Served this month: 217 families, 859 individuals **A NEW RECORD**

Volunteer Stipends Paid Out: \$600, \$125 (gas cards) **A NEW RECORD**

Special Thanks to our Corporate Donors and Food Relief Partners:

We are grateful for the support of the following organizations that provided food donations, trucking services, Holiday treats, reusable grocery bags, volunteer crews, monetary gifts, and prayers: Food Rescue US, Elmhurst Food Pantry, Sysco, Costco, United & Delta Airlines, Give-N-Kind, Lutheran Church Charities, Knights of Columbus, NID-LCMS Staff, RG Transportation, Veterans Distribution, St. Barbara's Food Pantry, Peoples Resource Center, Jewel/Osco, Oak Street Health, Brookfield Zoo, Trinity Trailblazers-4-H, Ali Wessal Services.

PYHT has a Sponsor! Official sponsorship of our Pantry will begin January 2022 with Oak Street Health. During pantry days a representative will greet and assist any patrons with health care needs and questions and in exchange will provide monetary support as well as re-usable grocery bags. Staff from Oak Street Health have been helping with traffic control on pantry days and passing out literature the past 2 months. Please pray that this new partnership works well and helps us make a bigger community impact.

Food Rescue US: Behind the scenes there has been a lot of activity in our Food Rescue and re-distribution efforts around Cook County. We have set a new record in pounds of food received and redistributed in a single month, thanks to Ali Wessal Services/Food Pantry, owner of a box truck with liftgate, and our donors Michael Lewis Co., Costco, Sysco & Imperfect Foods. Ali helped us pickup and deliver 98,000 lbs of donated food in November and December.

Grant Opportunities:

Faith in Place has released a new food relief grant available to houses of worship for \$7,000, applications are due 1/30/22, we were awarded a \$1200 grant from them last year, we will re-apply.

Volunteers Needed-March:

In March we will need volunteers to **pick-up our Costco-Melrose Park food donations** while Jayne is on vacation, every Thursday between 10am-noon, SUV required. Drop-off at Church or delivery to Westchester Food Pantry. Also, **Volunteer Pantry Director Needed** for March 12th Pantry Day.

No Longer Down-in-the-Dumpster:

Thanks to Tom & Joanna Czubernat for changing our waste removal service and providing the Pantry with their own trash/recycling dumpsters and saving the church some money. Great Stewardship Move!!

Carpet Cleaning?

We are endeavoring to raise some funds to clean the Narthex carpeting, the pantry has put quite a bit of wear and tear on it, especially near the entrances. Please let us know if you can get an estimate for cleaning and let us know when so we can alter our deliveries and pickups that week.

Stewards Living with Purpose

In the book of Psalms, King David wrote, *“The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me”* (Psalm 138:8). In spite of David’s sinful life and the difficulties he had with Saul and Absalom, the Lord fulfilled His purpose for David. Just as God had a purpose for David, so He has for us as well. Have you given much thought to what purpose God may have for your life? By grace, we understand that we were created for God’s purpose, not ours.

One important purpose God gives His people is to care for His creation and His people. We are given the honor to be His stewards. Stewards care for all that God entrusts to us according to His will. As His stewards, we understand that He is the creator and owner of all things. When we responsibly care for the earth and provide for His people both physically and spiritually, we honor God as His stewards,

God’s Word reminds us that by nature we are sinful fallen people who are spiritually dead and unable to accomplish the purpose that God has designed us to do. The Apostle Paul tells us that *“We once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us...made us alive together with Christ...”* (Ephesians 2:3-5). The only way we can do anything to please Him and to live with a God-pleasing purpose is to be recreated by the Holy Spirit and to be converted into new people in Christ (2 Corinthians 5).

As people of faith, our purpose is not to live for ourselves but for Jesus Who *“died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised”* (2 Corinthians 5:15). In our lives as stewards, we can, with God’s help, put Him first in all things. *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31). When we serve, let us serve *“by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 4:11).

Thomas Carlyle, an historian and author, wrote, *“The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder—a waif, a nothing a no man.”* We need purpose in order to have meaning for our lives. We are blessed because in Christ we have purpose for living. May we all thank God that He has given us faith and wisdom to understand that our purpose in life is to give Him glory, honor, and service.

ALL THAT YOU ARE, HAVE, AND HOPE TO BE ARE GIFTS FROM GOD.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” (James 1:17).

Jesus said that He *“came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”* (Matthew 20:28). During His time on earth, Jesus healed the sick, gave food to the hungry, confronted the wicked, and comforted the despairing. Jesus also calls us to serve rather than to be served. We are encouraged to follow Him in paths of service. As God’s people, we are called to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37). The key to our service is to live with an attitude that is God-centered. With God as our focus, we will want to love and serve Him and others.



Every Good
Gift is From
God

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 with you and thank the Lord.

Immanuel Christian Academy

Make God a Part of Your Resolutions

Valerie Winston

At the end of every year people make resolutions for the coming year. They want to try to develop new habits or quit bad habits. They might want to eat healthier, lose weight, get more exercise, get organized, get a better job and so forth. But for many those resolutions fail. Part of the failure lies in focusing on the outcome and not on how to get to that outcome. The other part of the failure is not including God as part of the resolution.

A resolution is a firm decision to do or not to do something. A resolution is much like a plan or a goal. When you plan or set a goal, you need to also have a way to achieve that plan or goal. As Christians we know that God should always be a part of the plan. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God has a plan for us. Jeremiah 33:3 says, “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” Isaiah 55:6 says, “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on Him while He is near.”

Just as we want to plan for ourselves, God also has a plan for us. He lets us know that all we need to do is call on Him for help. When we make a resolution, we may start out with enthusiasm, but if God is not a part of that plan, that enthusiasm will be lost. God should always be a part of any resolution that we make. There should be a daily commitment to focus on Him before we focus on anything else. God should always be at the top of our resolution list. And even if you don't make a resolution to change some aspect of our life, you should resolve to make sure that God is always a part of your daily life.



2022
Happy New Year

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas poinsettia purchase. We hope you or the recipient of your plant enjoys it for many weeks. Long after the other decorations are put away, it will continue to be a living reminder of the celebration of our Savior's birth. - The Altar Guild

The Thrivent Choice® program encourages benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Members make their recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches. Many members of Immanuel have qualifying Thrivent accounts. Depending on the type of account, the amount directed ranges between \$25 and \$5,000. If members do not pick a charity, Thrivent directs the money. If you have a qualifying Thrivent account, please consider directing funds to Immanuel! Call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" or visit <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>

SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

To support the school with an Annual Fund Donation, please make checks payable to Immanuel and write Annual Fund on the memo line or give online through Realm.

<https://onrealm.org/ilchillside/give/appeal2021>



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com today!

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

Order Market Day Today!

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

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



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.

January

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Luke 1:57-66 | 15 Romans 5:1-21 |
| 2 Luke 1:67-80 | 16 Romans 6:1-23 |
| 3 Luke 2:1-20 | 17 Romans 7:1-20 |
| 4 Luke 2:21-40 | 18 Romans 7:21-8:17 |
| 5 Luke 2:41-52 | 19 Romans 8:18-39 |
| Epiphany | 20 Romans 9:1-18 |
| 6 Luke 3:1-20 | 21 Romans 9:19-33 |
| 7 Luke 3:21-38 | 22 Romans 10:1-21 |
| 8 Romans 1:1-17 | 23 Romans 11:1-24 |
| 9 Romans 1:18-32 | 24 Romans 11:25-12:13 |
| 10 Romans 2:1-16 | 25 Romans 12:14-13:14 |
| 11 Romans 2:17-29 | 26 Romans 14:1-23 |
| 12 Romans 3:1-18 | 27 Romans 15:1-13 |
| 13 Romans 3:19-31 | 28 Romans 15:14-33 |
| 14 Romans 4:1-25 | 29 Romans 16:17-27 |

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

Deaths
 December 27, Irene Niko



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 - Roger Brabant | 19 - Lois Boese |
| 06 - Lynda Nickl | 20 - Dorothy Westphal |
| 10 - Brett Willis | 22 - Michelle Weeks |
| 12 - Toni Mooney | 25 - Jennifer Bettin |
| 13 - Steve Hardy | 28 - Randy Weeks |
| 15 - Marisa Perez | 30 - Bob Westphal |

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. Pena Family
2. Perez Family
3. Annelies Pitz
4. Lynn Rand
5. Susan Redis
6. Gloria Rubietta
7. Joan Rundgren
8. Karen Sierawski
9. Jayne Siou
10. Rose Slagle
11. Daniel Stallings
12. Rita Stallings
13. Svec Family
14. Thomas Family (Chris, Katie, Braydon, Carson)
15. Thomas Family (Rick, Paris Zariah, Regan)
16. Lisa Tipples
17. Lance Turner
18. Wayne & Debbie Valentino
19. Thy & Sarah Vu
20. Patricia Washington
21. Marilyn Weeks
22. Randy & Michelle Weeks
23. The Welch Family
24. Dorothy Westphal
25. Philbert Wilcox Sr.
26. Philbert Wilcox Jr.
27. Brett Willis
28. Valerie Winston
29. Vern Witt
30. Harold Zedler

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
2 9:30am Worship HC 10:45 Coffee hour 11:15 Bible Study	3 No School	4 No School 3pm Remote Learning Material Pickup	5 Remote Learning 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	6 - Epiphany Remote Learning	7 Remote Learning 7pm Adult Volleyball	8 11am - 1pm PYHT Pantry
9 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship 10:45 Coffee hour 11:15 Bible Study	10 Remote Learning	11 Remote Learning	12 Remote Learning 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	13 Remote Learning	14 Remote Learning	15
16 9:30am Worship HC 10:45 Coffee hour 11:15 Bible Study	17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	18 In Person Classes Resume	19 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	20	21 7pm Adult Volley- ball	22
23 9:30am Worship 10:45 Coffee hour 11:15 Bible Study	24	25	26 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship HC 10:45 Coffee hour 11:15 Bible Study	31					

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



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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*