



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

December 2021

Volume 17, Issue 6

*"Merry Christmas! This month as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I would like to share with you some timely words from a well-respected publication that always puts Christ first in all things - especially Christmas."
- Pastor Steve*

Who Is Jesus?

Some couples expecting a baby are eager to know the sex of the child beforehand for obvious reasons – like appropriate nursery décor, blue or pink clothing, even choosing names. Others like to wait till the baby is born to find out if they are parents of a baby boy or a baby girl.

Joseph and Mary had no such dilemma. An angel appeared to each with the same message: *"She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel' (which means God with us)"* (Matthew 1:21-23).

Thirty plus years later, this Jesus rode into Jerusalem as people shouted, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!"* but some asked, *"Who is this?"* After all Jesus had done throughout His three-year ministry, people still didn't know who He was! Even those who answered the question gave an insufficient reply: *"This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee"* (Matthew 21:9-11).



The same terrible reality is ours today: Not everyone knows who Jesus is. Some, like those in Jesus' triumphal path that day, say He was a great prophet or teacher. Others say He was a fake, an imposter. How would you answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" We, like Peter, have the only true answer: *"[He is] the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (Matthew 16:16). Not only did Peter have the answer, he directs us, *"In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."* (1 Peter 3:15 NIV).

As stewards of the Gospel, we must be prepared. We must be studying God's Word and be in prayer that we might be empowered by the Word and equipped by His Spirit to give answers to those who ask and to use the wonderful, natural opportunities that the Christmas season affords to speak about the Savior, the reason for our Christmas joy.

May God empower us all to spread the wonderful news that Jesus Who is the Savior of the world has come to redeem us and to give us an abundant life now and life with Him in eternity.

Blessed to Be a Blessing

May we during this holiday season be mindful of all the wonderful and amazing blessings that come from God. Because God gives, we receive, and then we can give. Interestingly, in giving, we receive even more. Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35).

God is a loving and giving God. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). Through His Word and Sacraments, God provides:

- His grace that gives us this life and life eternal.
- His love that didn’t spare His only Son.
- His forgiveness.

His victory over sin and death.

In spite of our unworthiness and our sinful ways, God blesses us physically and spiritually. He promises never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). God promises that, when we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us (James 4:8). He loves us unconditionally. God gives and keeps on giving. Because Jesus gives us His love, grace, and goodness, we are enabled to be loving and giving people. *“We love because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19). All love comes from God. We are enabled to love only because we have received His love.

God’s Word clearly directs us to use the blessings we receive from Him to bless others. We are blessed to be a blessing. In Christ’s name, we are to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and help the sick (Matthew 25:35-36). God blesses us not only to take care of our needs; He blesses us so that we can use what we receive to bless others. Paul wrote *“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith”* (Galatians 6:10). Paul’s words to the church in Corinth and to us. *“You will be made rich in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”* (2 Corinthians 9:11).

The wonderful thing is that, as God blesses us to bless others, we are blessed again. When we give faithfully and generously, we will hear God’s words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21). As people who are a blessing to others, we will enjoy intimate fellowship with our Father and His Son, Jesus. Is there any greater blessing than this?

**EVEN AS TRUE GOD,
JESUS LIVED THE LIFE OF A
SERVANT. AS HIS STEWARDS,
WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE LIVES
OF SERVICE TO OTHERS.**

“... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”
(Matthew 20:28).



Stewardship Corner

Jesus said, *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...”* (John 15:16). God’s Word is clear that God does the calling and choosing. The wonderful thing is that we don’t need to have some exceptional talents or abilities. We don’t need to be people of status, have power, or be attractive for God to call us to be a follower. When Jesus picked His 12 disciples, He picked ordinary, diverse people who were not of elite status. He chose some fishermen, a tax collector, and one was a political activist known as “the zealot.” May God help each of us to be available and willing to follow when He calls.



Christmas

Cookie Walk

Sunday, December

19th

Immediately following
Worship Service



fundraiser \$10 Box

Bring your favorite cookies
and recipes to share

Shop with Scrip

Great Lake 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 every-day 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.shop.shopwithscrip.com

Enrollment Code:
9D337C6F55761



Poinsettia Plants will be part of the chancel decorations for Christmas at Immanuel. If you would like to make a plant purchase, special order forms are available. Orders and payments must be made before December 12th. The foil covered plants are \$15 each. Checks should be made payable to Immanuel Altar Guild. The plants can be picked up immediately after the Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, contact Barb Arndt at 1-630-655-0797.

Movie Nights will continue after the holidays. The Stewardship Committee appreciates your feedback! Are Friday nights best? Should we host them a different night or time? What movie would you like to see! Please share your thoughts with the committee. Committee members are Michael and Maxine Mannella, and Randy and Michelle Weeks. Thank you!

Advent Schedule Services & Sermon Series

When Heaven Met Earth: Advent Answers to Hard Questions

Wednesdays at
7:00pm

December 1, 8 & 15

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2317 S. Wolf Road
Hillside, IL



When Heaven Met Earth: Advent Answers to Hard Questions Hardly Anybody Is Asking

Advent Midweek 1: Luke 1:26-38
The Birth of God: How . . . and Why?
Advent Midweek 2: Luke 2:41-52
The Obedient Child: Did He Know?
Advent Midweek 3: Luke 19:41-44;
John 11:30-36 - The Man's Man:
Why Would Jesus Ever Cry?

We all have questions, though for a variety of reasons some choose not to ask them. It is true in a classroom and in various aspects of life, and it is also true in our lives of faith. Some teachers tell their students, "There is no such thing as a bad question," and for the most part that encouragement and attitude is a good one. Our heavenly Father would carry the same sentiment as He invites whatever we bring before Him, including our questions.

This Advent season, a few hard questions will be asked about our Lord, and our answers will be found in His Word and through the awaited Savior born for us.

Soup Supper as 6:00pm
Advent Wednesdays

OPEN to all

For Families in Need

DECEMBER FOOD GIVEAWAYS

Saturday, December 11th
Wednesday, December 22nd
11am-1pm
Or until we run out of food

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Food Pantry

2317 S. Wolf Rd. Hillside IL 60162
Call: (708) 562-5590

Help Us Feed Needy Families This Christmas
Donate Online: www.immanuel-hillside.org/pyht

November Pantry Report

11-13 Pantry Day New Record -
129 Families served!

11-23 Thanksgiving Turkey
Distribution - 112 Families served

Great volunteer turnout this month,

Thank you to everyone who
supported our Thanksgiving
Fundraiser and Turkey Giveaway!

Glory be to God!

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.

December

1 Nehemiah 8:1-12	9 Isaiah 60:1-7	17 Psalm 89:1-18	24 Luke 2:1-20
2 Amos 9:11-15	10 Isaiah 60:8-16	18 Psalm 89:19-37	Christmas Day
3 Zephaniah 3:14-20	11 Isaiah 60:17-22	Fourth Sunday in Advent	25 John 1:1-18
4 Zechariah 9:9-17	Third Sunday in Advent	19 Luke 1:1-25	26 Acts 7:54-60
Second Sunday in Advent	12 Isaiah 61:1-11	20 Luke 1:26-38	27 Hebrews 1:1-14
5 Mark 1:1-15	13 Jeremiah 33:1-13	21 Luke 1:39-56	28 Hebrews 2:1-18
6 Psalm 97	14 Jeremiah 33:14-26	22 Luke 1:57-66	29 Hebrews 12:1-13
7 Psalm 126	15 2 Samuel 7:1-17	23 Luke 1:67-80	30 Hebrews 12:14-29
8 Isaiah 11:1-9	16 2 Samuel 7:18-29	Christmas Eve	31 Hebrews 13:1-21

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.

Advent Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 - Pray for Pastor and his family	2 - Pray for church ministries and non-profits all over the world	3 - Pray for the lonely	4 - Pray for people in financial trouble
5 - Pray for those addicted to alcohol or drugs	6 - Pray for the tired and weary.	7 - Pray for the sick, the chronically ill.	8 - Pray for the faculty, staff and church leaders at Immanuel	9 - Pray for those struggling with past hurt, abuse, trauma.	10 - Pray for people who lack clean water	11 - Pray for people who are hungry
12 - Pray for people who do not think they need God	13 - Pray for people taking care of elderly parents or family.	14 - Pray for those who grieve, who are missing loved ones this holiday season.	15 - Pray for the persecuted church, believers and new-believe	16 - Pray for those who wish to work but can not find employment.	17 - Pray for God to break the spirit of greed and selfishness	18 - Pray for those who do not have a relationship with Jesus.
19 - Pray for prisoners who feel abandoned & unworthy.	20- Pray for those whose dreams have died; who feel stuck, defeated and unsure	21 - Pray for the sons and daughters trapped in sex-slavery. Pray for freedom.	22 - Pray for governmental leaders, for wisdom, integrity, for God’s will to be done.	23 - Pray for those who are workaholics; for right priorities	24 Pray for joy , generosity and grace for all people in all places.	25 - Celebrate our Savior! Give thanks for this Joyous holiday!

December Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3 - Maya Lepe | 10 - Karen Bimler | 18 - Maxine Mannella |
| 3 - Lizette Pena | 10 - Katy Thomas | 21 - Mia Railing |
| 7 - Sarah Blair | 11 - Lance Turner | 24 - Zachary Redis |
| 8 - Susan Mazanek | 13 - Rita Stallings | 26 - Corinne Hein |
| 9 - Zachary Blair | 16 - Jayne Siou | |

For the Record
Nothing to Report



Immanuel Christian Academy

Messengers of God

Valerie Winston



“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” Luke 2:10.

There are many stories in the Bible wherein angels delivered messages from God. Sometimes the messages were warnings and sometimes the messages were good news. Throughout the Christmas story we see several messages being delivered by angels, mostly the angel Gabriel. Zechariah was told about the birth of John. Mary was told that she had been chosen by God to carry His Son. Joseph was told not to be afraid to make Mary his wife. And, of course, the angel visited the shepherds to tell them the good news of great joy.

People have been fascinated by angels for many years. There are stories and books about angels. There have been TV shows and movies about angels. There are ornaments, statues, and even jewelry depicting angels. Sometimes people get so excited about angels that they forget about God. Angels are servants of God. They witness Him, praise Him, and do His work. They are messengers sent by God.

While we are not angels, we can certainly be messengers of God. We can certainly witness Him, praise Him, and do His work. We can be messengers when we share His word with others. We can witness His love and do His work by sharing our time and talents with others. We can praise Him as we fellowship with other believers.

And as they angels proclaimed His birth, we can certainly proclaim His gospel to all that not only was Jesus born, but that He died and rose for us. That is truly good news of great joy that should be shared with all people.

**Don't forget to choose Immanuel Lutheran Church & School Hillside, IL
as your charity when Christmas shopping on [Amazon](#).**

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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!

If you would like to make a year end contribution to the church or school, please do so before noon on December 31, 2021 to receive credit for 2021 on your giving statement. Checks received after will count towards 2022 contributions.



December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Scrip Orders Due Dec. 5, for Dec. 15th Delivery.		1 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Service 7:45 Choir Practice	2 7pm Adult Volleyball	3 7pm Adult Volleyball	4
5 - Scrip Orders Due 9:30am Worship HC 10:45 Coffee hour 11:15 Bible Study	6	7	8 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Service 7:45 Choir Practice	9	10	11 11am - 1pm PYHT Pantry Day
12 9:30am Worship 10:45 Coffee hour 11:15 Bible Study 4:00pm Christmas Program	13	14	15 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Service 7:45 Choir Practice	16	17 7pm Adult Volleyball	18
19 9:30am Service of Lessons & Carols 10:45 Coffee hour & Cookie Walk 11:15 Bible Study	20	21	22 - No School Christmas break 11am - 1pm Holiday Pantry 7:30 Choir Practice	23 - No School Christmas break	24 - No School Christmas break 9:00pm Christmas Eve Service	10:00am Christmas Service
26 9:30am Worship 10:45 Coffee hour 11:15 Bible Study	27 No School Christmas break	28 No School Christmas break	29 No School Christmas break	30 No School Christmas break	31 - New Years Eve No School Christmas break	



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

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 LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*