



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

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Go and Bear Fruit

Fruit trees are one of the many wonders of God's creation. To see the beauty of the tree and its fruit, to enjoy its taste, and to realize that it all came from a tiny seed is beyond our comprehension. An apple seed is planted in the ground, and, with water and sun as nourishment, miraculously a seedling surfaces that develops into a fruit tree. After a period of time, the apple tree fulfills its mission by bearing apples.

We, as Christians, are like that apple tree. We, too, have been fed and nourished by God so we can bear fruit. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..."* (John 15:16). Jesus tells us *"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). The life and power of any plant is found in its vine. The vine uses the branches to produce its fruit. The branch is simply a growth of the vine, produced by it and appointed to bear fruit. The branch exists only because the vine makes it possible.

Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. When we stay connected to Jesus, we are told that we *"will bear much fruit."* Christ has given us the task of ministering to the needs of others and spreading the Gospel. As we stay connected to Him through His Word and Sacraments, we discover God's perfect will for us, and we are empowered to please Him by bearing fruit (Colossians 1:9-10). God has created us to bear fruit (Ephesians 2:10), but only through Christ is it possible for us to do so.

"If we live by the Spirit," Paul exhorted, *"let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another"* (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because His Spirit lives in us, not as a result of our own efforts. We do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful natures, becoming, in Paul's words, *"Conceited, provoking one another."* We are to *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness"* (Ephesians 5:11a), but are to *"Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:8b-10). Go and bear fruit!

August Important Dates:

Day School Commission Meeting, August 5th, 5:30pm

Return to School Ice Cream Social, August 8th, 6pm

ICA at Hillside Summer Nights, August 12th, 5pm

Faculty Meeting, August 15th

First Day of School, August 21st

2025 Lay Leadership Summit, August 23rd

No School, August 29th

In the love and fellowship of Christ,

Pastor Steve

Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Put Your Hands Together News Report

submitted by Jayne Siou, Pantry Director

PYHT Food Pantry Distributions & Activity

Grants Written: 1

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Recovery: 13,709

Food Ministry Service Events: 12 Events

Direct Families / Agencies Served: 228 Families/14 Agencies/820 Individuals

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served: Westchester FP, Berwyn FP, St. Paul Oak Lawn, St. Lukes, Downers Grove Comm Kitchen, Immanuel Des Plaines, Pilsen Pantry, Elmwood Park FP.

NEWS: Food Pantry Upgrades Completed!

A huge thanks to all volunteers, Tom Czubernat, Ricardo Perez, Mike Northcutt for all the help updating the pantry hallway, electric and equipment. What a big improvement for storage and pantry operations that will serve us far into the future. Thanks be to God for providing for all our needs!

We're Saving Money!

After analyzing transportation costs with last year's expenses, the pantry is saving money with our new truck purchase. Fuel and truck costs have been cut more than half, great news for our pantry budget for 2026.

Host a Fall Fundraiser or Back to School Food Drive Can you help organize a summer food drive? Put the word out at your place of business and start a collection box, post flyers and share with social media. *See Jayne for details.*

HELP NEEDED: Fundraising, Food Drives and other support for the pantry is increasingly difficult and competitive with our other ministries, especially around the holidays.

Please consider making a recurring donation to our food pantry online, through REALM. A small monthly donation of 10 or \$25 or more can make a remarkable difference in our pantry sustainability and help cover the many expenses we incur each month.

Paper Grocery Bags Needed! We have not had to purchase paper grocery bags in almost a year, keep up the good recycling work! Thank you.

God Bless our Volunteers! You are so appreciated!

HELP NEEDED:

Monday, August 4th @ 4:30 pm Food Bank Unloading

Saturday, August 9th @ 9:30am PANTRY DAY!

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

Antidote for Ingratitude

What happens to the desire of a person to continue giving when there is no response from the recipients? The grandmother who sends a check every birthday and every Christmas and never receives a phone call or a thank you note starts rethinking her habit of giving. The donor who never receives a letter of appreciation from the charity he faithfully supports starts researching other charities that might be more worthy of his financial gifts.

God isn't like this. He continues to give to us even though we are ungrateful and even unheeding of His goodness to us. The sun shines, ripening the fruit on the vine; the rains fall, watering the earth; your God-given abilities enable you to perform the job you've chosen so that you can provide for your daily needs. Yes, God is faithful, even when we are not.

Certainly, as God's stewards, we know we bring grief to the heart of God by our ingratitude. The best antidote for ingratitude is to give. Giving gets our minds off ourselves and focuses our thoughts on our Creator and Provider. Giving brings home the realization of just how bountifully God has blessed us that we are able to give generously. Giving sacrificially reminds us of all that Jesus sacrificed in order to make us His own. Giving brings joy like the joy Jesus had when He endured the Cross for the joy of what that work would accomplish for those He loves.

The cure for ingratitude is to give. In our giving, we are merely returning to God a portion of what He has already given us. Let that act of giving, then, become a habit of giving. You will find your ingratitude turning to joy in giving and deep appreciation for your Savior.

Serve one another

Because we have an inborn desire to serve ourselves, serving others is not natural. Yet, as we remember our Lord's supreme act of love on the Cross, we are inspired to be servants. It is love that motivates us to be servers rather than people who want to be served. Our desire to love and serve our neighbors is our response to the Lord's love for us. We love because He loved us first (1 John 4:19). To love is to serve; service is the natural outcome of love. Love is what gives us the energy and desire to serve.



THE RICH FOOL WAS TOO SELF-SUFFICIENT TO SEEK GOD AND JESUS CALLED HIM A FOOL. ARE YOU TRUSTING IN YOURSELF OR GOD?

“Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish” (Psalm 49:12).

Stewardship Corner

Our lives as Christian stewards are made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit. On our own initiative, it is impossible to become faithful stewards. In the same way that the Apostle Paul said that no one can declare “*Jesus is Lord*” except in the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3), neither are we able to declare ourselves God's stewards apart from God's grace. Filled with the Holy Spirit, our lives take on a new direction. The Holy Spirit plants faith in our hearts. Through faith, we express our gratitude for God's love and grace through our stewardship. With the help of the Holy Spirit, our lives are devoted to doing God's will and pleasing Him with how we use our time, talents, and money.

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.

August - Faith in Action

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Galatians 1:1–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Acts 16:1–15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Galatians 2:1–14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Acts 16:16–40 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Acts 17:1–15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Galatians 2:15–21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Acts 17:16–34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Galatians 3:1–14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Acts 18:1–17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Galatians 3:15–4:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Acts 18:18–28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Galatians 4:8–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Acts 19:1–20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Galatians 4:21–31 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Galatians 5:1–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Acts 19:21–41 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Galatians 5:15–26 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Acts 20:1–16 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Acts 20:17–38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Galatians 6:1–18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Acts 21:1–16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Acts 13:1–12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Acts 21:17–26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Acts 13:13–25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Romans 1:1–18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Acts 13:26–41 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Romans 12:1–21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Acts 13:42–52 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Acts 14:1–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Romans 13:1–14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Acts 14:21–28 | |

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

August Birthdays *“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24*

4 - Braxton Whitaker
5 - Jayla Pernell
6 - Paris Thomas
8 - Dave Svec
12 - Tom Sierawski

16 - Rashaad Smith
19 - Regan Thomas
20 - Eden Burks, Kyrie Willaims
21 - Lynn Rand
23 - Mike Northcutt

25 - Debbie Valentino
26 - Ron Arndt
28 - Johnny Welch
30 - Terrell Wright
31 - Tracy Bell