



Changing, Preparing, Glorifying

“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

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

Have you had enough winter weather advisories lately? I’m sure you have; I know I have. But look on the bright side—literally—each day we are gaining more daylight as we approach springtime. And as we enter the church on Sunday mornings during the month of February you will see some noticeable changes as well. We will make the change from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent which begins on Wednesday February 18 th (Ash Wednesday). But before we move into preparation mode (40 days) to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, we will spend a few Sundays exploring our role as stewards of God and His creation.

“Stewards Engaged in God’s Work” is the title of our three-week series this month. The Bible has much to say about how we who are called and chosen by God to participate in the Body of Christ through sharing, serving, and giving. This series, in and of itself, is good preparation for the lengthy Lenten season. You should have received an email inviting you to watch a short video introducing this series. Please be sure to check your inbox.

Then on Ash Wednesday we will change our focus once more to one of preparation. The prophet Joel proclaims, “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love(2:10). Lent is a time for reflection, repentance, and focusing on the story of Jesus’ sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection. What better way to prepare than to use one of our beautiful hymns as our theme for our midweek worship services. “O Love, How Deep” LSB 544, is a rich and moving hymn that tells a story, teaches, and paints pictures in our minds of the great works of God. The title “For Us” speaks to who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand why God would send His Son to die for us. And don’t forget that before we worship on Wednesday’s we will gather for our Lenten Dinners at 6:00pm. You can expect good food and good fellowship followed by God’s good Word that always nourishes and satisfies our souls.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the month of February, a time for changing seasons that move us to always Glorify God and Impact the Community.

To the Greatness of God in Christ,

Pastor Steve Deombeleg

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

Whose Money Is It Anyway?

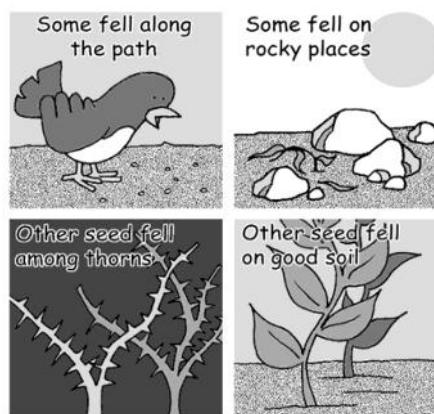
Our perspective of ownership will affect our attitudes toward money. If we view money as our own rather than belonging to God, we will use it differently than if we acknowledge that it belongs to Him. God's Word clearly states that He is the sole owner of all things. *"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein"* (Psalm 24:1). We must honestly remember that we are stewards, entrusted by God, in charge of the goods He has given to us.

We are warned in Deuteronomy 8:17-18: *"Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you the power to get wealth..."* God is not only the owner of everything, He is the source of our wealth. He even gives you the desire and ability to work and earn a living.

How we answer the question regarding the ownership of our money is pivotal. Will we acknowledge God's ownership and control? Do

GOD IS THE SOURCE AND THE OWNER OF ALL THINGS. WE LEAVE THIS EARTH WITH EMPTY HANDS.

"For we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world"
(1 Timothy 6:7).



THE BEST PREPARATION FOR TOMORROW IS TO WORK SMART AND HARD TODAY.

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established"
(Proverbs 16:3).

Stewardship Corner - Jesus spoke to the issue of greed in Matthew 16:26 when He asked, *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"* The things we possess will contribute only to fleeting happiness, not an enduring peace and contentment. Our focus on things can blind us to the emptiness of our faith. The one who is blessed materially is not necessarily discontent, but those who depend on their wealth to bring them contentment will be disappointed. Thus, the deciding factor is the relationship between a person and his wealth. Consider Abraham, one of the richest people in the Bible. Abraham had amassed wealth, but he knew that all he had belonged to God. In God, he had everything. His

we see ourselves as a steward, not an owner? Even though we may verbalize the right answers to these questions, our lives may not give evidence of what we say. Because money and material things can become sources of pride and self-sufficiency, we can easily live with the attitude that we are in control, so we follow the ways of the world and our own desires.

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus warns us about how our attitude toward money and things can affect our response to God's Word. Jesus stated that some *"seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them"* (Matthew 13:7). He explained, *"As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful"* (Matthew 13:22). Having money and possessions can deceive you into believing that nothing is more important than owning things and enjoying the things money can buy. If the love of money controls your heart, God is pushed aside, and you will endanger your eternity with Him.

Reflection on "O Love, How Deep"



Lenten Midweek Sermon Series begins Ash Wednesday.
Join us for worship with imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m.

“For us” is not simply a pithy line to use because it is easy to repeat. It is a confession of who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand why God would send His Son to die for us.

The phrase “for us” also captures much of the Reformation’s theological emphasis—and Luther’s understanding of Scripture in particular. Luther went from searching for a righteous God and finding only stern rebuke to seeing God in the form of a little baby and as the one who became one of us for us so that we might become like Him.

Our Lenten preaching series hymn “O Love, How Deep” (LSB 544) was originally a twenty-three-stanza poem written in the fifteenth century by an unknown author. In the nineteenth century, an Anglican cleric named Benjamin Webb translated the hymn into English and then chose six stanzas for use in English hymnody. The doxological stanza was added later.

Lenten Dinner and Fellowship Wednesday nights in Lent at 6pm

Church groups are encouraged to sign up and host a dinner. All are welcome to join us. Wednesdays with no host will be potluck!

The sign up sheet is located on the table in the narthex.

We hope you will join us!





Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Submitted by Jayne Siou, pantry director

PYHT Food Pantry Distributions & Activity

Grants Written: 0

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Recovery: 19,000lbs

Food Ministry Service Events: 5

Direct Families Served: Families & Food Ministry Partners, 165 Families/15 Agencies

PYHT Food Relief Agencies & Ministries

Served: Westchester FP, Berwyn FP, St. Paul Oak Lawn, St. Lukes, Downers Grove Comm Kitchen, Pilsen Pantry, Chicago Heights FP, Midwest Food Bank.

NEWS

2025 Impact

- Pounds of food rescued and re-distributed = 306,237 Lbs.
- Equivalent of 450,000 meals served
- Families in our Community served = 1,900
- 3,800 Food Boxes & Grocery Bags given away
- \$3,000 Holiday Food Gift Cards Distributed
- Community Food Distribution Events Held = 46
- PYHT Food Sharing with other Ministries = 60 Events

Cold Weather:

The extreme cold weather continues to make it difficult to receive and distribute food, but our refrigerators and freezers are well stocked. Thanks be to God!

PRAY: Please keep Immanuel Food Pantry in your prayers. We pray for another successful year of service and good health to all our volunteers.

May we continue to serve our community with Christian love and joy, while always bringing Glory to God!

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9). To God be the glory for every life touched and every act of love shared.

HELP NEEDED:

Monday, Feb 2nd: Food Bank Unloading @4:45pm

Saturday Feb 14th Pantry Day @9:30am

Saturday March 14th Pantry Day @9:30am

Saturday, March 21st Poultry Day @9:30am

Immanuel Hillside Food Pantry Food Distribution Schedule

FOR FAMILIES IN NEED



Saturday, February 14th

Saturday, March 14th

Saturday, March 21st-Poultry Day

Saturday, April 11th

Saturday, May 9th

Saturday, June 13th



(Begins at 11am, while supplies last)

Put Your Hands Together
A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church
Hillside Food Pantry

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2317 S. Wolf Rd. Hillside, IL 60162
(708) 562-5590

IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Making a joyful noise to the Lord for 173 years!



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 ICA. It's that simple!

Order Forms are located in the church hallway or can enroll online to order.



www.raiseright.com/shop, Enrollment Code: 9D337C6F55761

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4+ items → **25% OFF**
3 items → **20% OFF**
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SHOP NOW USE CODE: SPIRIT766

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 **1ST PLACE**
Spiritwear

SCHOOL GYM FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



This fundraising campaign will help us raise the balance needed to complete our ceiling restoration. Your generosity will directly impact our students and community, ensuring ICA remains a vibrant, thriving environment for future generations.

How You Can Help:

- ✓ Adopt a Tile
- ✓ Spread the Word

**Adopt
-a-
Tile**

Give Today!



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 - Active in Love

Set aside time to

- 1 Philippians 1:1–11
- 2 Philippians 1:12–30
- 3 Philippians 2:1–11
- 4 Philippians 2:12–30
- 5 Philippians 3:1–11
- 6 Philippians 3:12–21
- 7 Philippians 4:1–9

- 8 Philippians 4:10–23
- 9 Philemon 1–25
- 10 Exodus 1:1–22
- 11 Exodus 2:1–10
- 12 Exodus 2:11–25
- 13 Exodus 3:1–22
- 14 Exodus 4:1–17

- 15 Exodus 4:18–31
- 16 Exodus 6:1–13

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 - Death

Dorothy Ivers 01/08/2026

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. *Smith Family*
2. *Swims Family*
3. Rita Stallings
4. Svec Family
5. *Thomas Family*
6. *Thurman Family*
7. Lisa Tipple
8. Lance Turner
9. Wayne & Debbie Valentino
10. *The Voss Family*
11. Randy & Michelle Weeks
12. The Welch Family
13. Dorothy Westphal
14. Philbert Wilcox Jr.
15. Brett Willis
16. *The Whitaker / Stevens Family*
17. *The Wilson Family*
18. *The Woodruff Family*
19. *The Wright Family*
20. *The Williams Family*
21. *The Yi Family*
22. *The Afflack Family*
23. *The Aguirre Family*
24. Tina Alicea
25. Ron & Barb Arndt
26. Susan Arnold
27. *The Bankhead Family*
28. *The Barrett Family*

February Birthdays

1 - Donn Hempel

1 - Jeffrey Bettin

4 - Joanna Czubernat

5 - Bella Gerard

7 - Raniya Gipson

10 - Barb Arndt

17 - Evelyn Haynes

19 - Bryanna Ortiz

21 - Rev. Steve Simon

22 - Carrita Flie

27 - Elnora Burks

28 - Noah Johnson



February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 - Open Enrollment Begins 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	2 Groundhog's Day MAP Testing Begins	3 3pm Varsity BBall Practice	4 9:30am Chapel Meeting 3pm Faculty Meeting 7pm Adult Choir Practice	5 3pm Varsity BBall Practice	6 4pm Varsity BBall Game HOME	7
8 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	9 Scrip Orders Due	10 4pm Varsity BBall Game HOME 5:30pm Day School Meeting 6pm PTL Meeting	11 9:30am Chapel Practice 7pm Adult Choir Practice 6pm Church Council Meeting	12 3pm Varsity BBall Practice	13 7pm Adult Volleyball	14 11am Food Pantry
15 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:15am Bible Study	16 No School Presidents Day	17 4pm Varsity BBall Game AWAY @Elmhurst	18 - Ash Wednesday Lent Begins 9:30am Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service 7:30 Adult Choir Practice	19	20	21 4:30 pm Varsity BBall Game AWAY @Morton Grove
22 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Voters Meeting	23 6:30pm Stewardship Meeting	24 9:30am Chapel 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Lenten Service 7:30 Adult Choir Practice	25 6:30pm Stewardship Meeting	26 6pm Black History Program	27 - EOT 4pm Athletes vs. Parents Game	28 7pm Adult Volleyball



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Hillside, IL 60162*

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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*