



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

January 2026

Volume 21, Issue 7

Faith in Action

God has given His people the high honor and great privilege to be stewards of His wonderful creation. We care for His creation as well as the gifts that our gracious God has entrusted to each of us individually. Through faith, we understand that all we are and have are gifts from Him.

What we do as stewards is governed by His Word, and we use the time, talents, and resources He entrusts to us according to His will and for His purposes. Stewardship is our response as believers to what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He wants us to use the resources that He has provided us in such a way that people come to know and trust in Him.

In his book, *Stepping Stones of the Steward*, Ron Vallet wrote, “Stewards are not simply born. We are created and molded as stewards by the Holy Spirit in a life-long process that includes conversion to the shape of the life we see in Jesus Christ and many experiences of losing and finding our way in the Lord.” Despite our unworthiness, God has chosen us in Christ to become His stewards. By our own reason or strength, we are unable to be faithful in our stewardship, but, through the Holy Spirit working within us through Word and Sacrament, we can be faithful stewards. Our stewardship becomes a joy rather than an obligation. It is our connection to Christ which enables us to be stewards each and every day. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “I can do all things through Him Who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). God equips us to do whatever He calls us to do.

Because of God’s goodness, He thinks so highly of us that He trusts us to administer what belongs to Him. As God’s stewards, we understand the privileges and responsibilities that we have in all the relationships of life. Our stewardship impacts our relationships with our families, neighbors, co-workers, and with all of creation. As His stewards, we receive His gifts thankfully, manage them responsibly, and give them generously.

Christian stewardship puts our faith into action. It is our whole-hearted response to God’s redeeming love. Faith gives us access to God’s endless source of power, and faith produces the works of love that we do in Christ. May God help each of us become the stewards who tap into His strength, seek to do His will, and attempt to fulfill His purposes.

In the fellowship and love of Christ,

Pastor Steve

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey

Spirit-filled Stewards

In the Old Testament, a steward had a close relationship with his master and was given much responsibility. A steward acted as the owner's representative. For example, Abraham's chief steward was sent to a foreign country to bring back a wife for Abraham's son, Isaac (Genesis 24). Likewise, Joseph was a trusted steward of the Egyptian Pharaoh, and he managed Egypt's economy (Genesis 41).

New Testament stewards were given even greater responsibilities and privileges. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:9, *"For we are God's fellow workers..."* To accomplish His purposes, God has chosen to work with and through us. We have become joined in partnership with Christ as His fellow workers. God has formed this partnership with those He has chosen, so that the Gospel can be shared with everyone. We are His ambassadors to the world. It is the Lord Who enables and equips our partnership. We are called to use our voices, feet, and hands as well as our lives in this partnership to serve and honor Him.

Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, our stewardship becomes even more than a partnership. We become adopted sons and daughters in God's family. As part of God's family, we are given even greater responsibilities, and, as obedient children, we willingly obey and follow our heavenly Father's direction.

God has given us the privilege and opportunity to be His stewards. May we, with God's help, faithfully fulfill our stewardship responsibilities.

**LORD, IN THIS NEW YEAR, HELP US
TO BE BETTER STEWARDS OF THE
GIFTS THAT YOU GIVE TO US.**

"Look carefully then how you walk, not As unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).



**WE BECOME DISCIPLES WHEN
JESUS CALLS US, AND WE
FOLLOW.**

"And He said to them, 'Follow Me, And I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed Him." (Matthew 4:19).

Stewardship Corner

A new year offers a new start for many of us. Like Paul, we *"[forget] what lies behind and [strain] forward to what lies ahead, [we] press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14). Through Christ, Who has paid the penalty for our sins, the slate is clean; we can forget about the past. We are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are ready to go forward in His strength to serve Him with the gifts He has given us. *"Now to Him Who is able to do far more abundantly than all that all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen"* (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Put Your Hands Together

A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church

PYHT Food Pantry Distributions & Activity

Grants Written: 0

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Recovery: 63,588lbs!

Food Ministry Service Events: 8

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, Elmwood Park FP, Chicago Heights FP, Rev. Nicks, Village of Hillside, St. Domitilla, Youth Crossroads, Abundant Children & Family Services, Leyden Township FP, Immanuel Des Plaines, Midwest Food Bank.

NEWS

Holiday Fundraiser and distributions have been a success, thank you for your donations of food, funds, and your time volunteering! We served a total of 375 families this Holiday in Nov-Dec, grateful that so many volunteers and families came out in such bad weather. We raised close to \$4500 this Holiday Season!

The Put Your Hands Together 2025 Impact Report will be emailed out later this week or in early January.

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!

Happy New Year!

HELP NEEDED

Mondy, Jan 5th: Food Bank Unloading @4:45pm

Saturday Jan 10th Pantry Day @9:30am



*Thank you to everyone that participated in adding the beautiful
poinsettias to Immanuel's Christmas celebration.*

- The Altar Guild



2026 LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE



JANUARY 25, 2026 11:30AM - 1:00PM

- Worship with us, 9:30 a.m.
- Enjoy Fellowship 10:30 a.m.
- Visit Classrooms 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Schedule a private tour or shadow day

Find out why it's great to be a Cardinal!

ABOUT IMMANUEL

For 173 years, Immanuel has been dedicated to offering exceptional Christian education to the local community. Through the combined efforts of the congregation, staff, families, and volunteers, Immanuel nurtures both the academic success and spiritual growth of its children.

PURSuing GODLY EXCELLENCE

**IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY**
2317 S. Wolf Rd. Hillside, IL

APPLY TODAY

MORE INFO!
708-562-5580 x102
www.icahillside.org



IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

SCHOOL GYM FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



This fundraising campaign will help us raise seed money needed for grants and other fundraising opportunities. 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!



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> Enrollment Code: 9D337C6F55761



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 - Heeding Jesus' Call

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Hebrews 1:1–14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Matthew 16:1–12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Hebrews 2:1–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Matthew 16:13–28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Hebrews 3:1–19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Matthew 17:1–13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Hebrews 4:1–13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Matthew 17:14–27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Hebrews 4:14–5:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Acts 3:1–10 |
| Epiphany | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Acts 3:11–26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Matthew 2:1–12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Acts 4:1–22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Matthew 2:13–23 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Matthew 3:10–17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Acts 4:23–5:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Matthew 4:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Acts 9:1–19a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Matthew 4:12–25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Acts 9:19b–31 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Acts 9:32–42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Matthew 8:1–17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Acts 14:8–20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Matthew 9:18–34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Acts 16:1–15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Matthew 12:22–32 | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Acts 16:16–40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Matthew 14:1–21 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Matthew 14:22–36 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Matthew 15:1–20 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Matthew 15:21–39 | |

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

Nothing to Report



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. Sandra Houle
2. The Iacovetti Family
3. Dorothy Ivers
4. *The Jackson Family*
5. *The Johnson Family*
6. *The Jones Family*
7. *The Kelley / Telford Family*
8. The Karpierz Family
9. Clyde & Omie Lane
10. Becky Lelingis
11. The Lepe Family
12. The Mannella Family
13. Len & Susan Mazanek
14. Scott Mazanek
15. *McKenzie Family*
16. *Moore Family*
17. Ed & Karen Mulvihill
18. Heidi Murphy
19. *Muskwe Family*
20. *Nash Family*
21. Kathy Nelson
22. Lynda Nickl
23. Mike & Carol Northcutt
24. Mindy Ondrovic
25. Phyllis Ondrovic
26. The Pena Family
27. The Perez Family
28. *The Perry Family*
29. *The Santos Brantley - Cruz*
30. *The Sims Family*
31. *The Skinner Family*

January Birthdays

02 - Cameron Percy

06 - Lynda Nickl

10 - Brett Willis

15 - Marisa Perez

15 - Peyton McKenzie

20 - Dorothy Westphal

22 - Michelle Weeks

23 - Joseph Baskerville

25 - Jennifer Bettin

28 - Randy Weeks

30 - Aylah Yi

31 - Zayne Jordan

31 - Mercedes Lepe



January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30am, Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation 11:15am Bible Study	5 Re-enrollment Begins	6 4pm BBALL AWAY @ Itasca 5:30pm Day School Commission Meeting	7 9:30 am Chapel	8 3pm Basketball Practice	9 - Christmas Store and Christmas Classroom Parties 4pm BBALL AWAY @Burr Ridge 7pm Adult Volleyball	10 11am Food Pantry
11 Scrip Orders Due 9:30am, Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation 11:15am Bible Study 4pm Christmas Program	12 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	13 BBALL AWAY @ Elmhurst	14 9:30 am Chapel 3pm Pep Squad Practice	15 3pm BBALL Practice	16 PreK, Kinder, 1st & 2nd Field Trip 4pm BBALL HOME vs. Elmhurst	17
18 9:30am, Worship HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Confirmation 11:15am Bible Study	19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	20 3pm BBALL Practice	21 9:30 am Chapel 3pm Pep Squad Practice	22 6pm Multi- Cultural Night	23 4:30pm BBALL AWAY @ Morton Grove 7pm Adult Volleyball	24
25 LSW OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 9:30am, Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:30am - 1pm Visit	26 Lutheran Schools Week	27 BBALL HOME Lutheran Schools Week	28 9:30 am Chapel 3pm Pep Squad Practice Lutheran Schools Week	29 Lutheran Schools Week	30 Parents vs. Athletes BBALL Game	31 10:00am Basketball Tournament

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, Administrative Assistant

general@immanuel-hillside.org

708-562-5580 x 200

Donn Hempel, B.A., Director of Music

dhempel@immanuel-hillside.org

Office: 708-562-5580 ext. 205

Home: 708-442-1505

Carnita Nash, Principal

principal@immanuel-hillside.org

708-562-5580 ext. 201

www.icahillside.org

Joanna Czubernat, Communications

jczubernat@immanuel-hillside.org

708-562-5590 ext. 102



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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*