



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.

Immanuel Informer

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Dear Immanuel Christian Academy Family,

As we close the 2025-2026 school year, my heart is filled with gratitude, joy, and thanksgiving for all that God has done in and through our school community this year. This school year has been one of tremendous growth, accomplishment, and blessings. As my first year serving as Principal of Immanuel Christian Academy, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication of our students, families, faculty, staff, church, and community supporters. Together, we have continued to build upon the strong foundation that has made Immanuel a place where students are nurtured spiritually, academically, emotionally, and socially.

Throughout the year, our students have demonstrated remarkable growth in their academic achievement, leadership skills, character development, and faith. From classroom accomplishments and MAP testing growth to athletic achievements, musical performances, service projects, chapel participation, and student leadership opportunities, our students have continued to shine and make us proud. Their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have been evident every step of the way.

This year also brought many exciting opportunities for our school. We celebrated successful fundraising events, strengthened community partnerships, enhanced our facilities, and continued our efforts to provide the best possible Christian education for every child entrusted to our care. Whether through our Dinner Auction, Benefit Night, athletic events, field trips, school programs, or classroom celebrations, our school community came together in countless ways to support our mission.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parents and families. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, volunteer hours, financial support, and unwavering commitment to Immanuel Christian Academy. Your partnership is invaluable. The success of our students and our school is possible because of the strong relationship we share between home, church, and school.

I am also deeply grateful for our outstanding teachers and staff who pour their hearts into our students every day. Their dedication to our students goes far beyond the classroom. They have invested countless hours planning lessons, attending events, supporting students, communicating with families, and creating meaningful learning experiences. They have celebrated successes, offered encouragement during challenges, and consistently demonstrated Christ's love through their service. I am truly blessed to work alongside such an amazing team who care deeply about every child and family at Immanuel Christian Academy.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the future. This summer, we will continue preparing for the implementation of our new curriculum, which will further strengthen academic excellence and ensure alignment across grade levels. We will also continue our school beautification and facility improvement projects as we work to create an even more welcoming and engaging learning environment for our stu-

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dents and families. Additionally, we will continue fundraising efforts for our playground renovation project. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community and supporters, we have raised approximately \$13,000 toward this important initiative. Our goal is approximately \$22,000 to complete the full renovation, and we remain committed to providing our students with a safe, modern, and engaging outdoor play space. We look forward to continuing this project throughout the summer and into the coming school year as funding allows.

As my first year as Principal comes to a close, I am incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished together. We have celebrated achievements, overcome challenges, strengthened relationships, and continued building a culture rooted in faith, excellence, and love. The future of Immanuel Christian Academy is bright because of the people who make up this extraordinary school community. While summer offers a much-deserved opportunity for rest and renewal, we are already looking forward with excitement and anticipation to the 2026-2027 school year. We believe God has great things in store for Immanuel Christian Academy, and we are eager to continue growing together as a Christ-centered community of learners. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of partnering with you in your child's education. Thank you for your trust, your support, and your belief in the mission of Immanuel Christian Academy. Together, we are building a legacy of faith, learning, and excellence that will impact generations to come. May God bless you and your family with a safe, relaxing, and joy-filled summer.

In Christ,
Carnita Nash , Principal

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey

Being a Disciple

Jesus' last command to His followers was *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."* (Matthew 28:19). By this command, Jesus gives us His mission, and, along with that command, we are empowered by the promise of Jesus' presence when He tells us, *"I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20). He asks us, enabled by Word and Sacrament, to use our time, talents, and treasures to carry on His work.

We become disciples by obeying the first command Jesus ever gave to His twelve disciples: *"Follow Me"* (Matthew 4:19). A disciple is a follower of Jesus and one who learns from Him. Jesus said, *"You also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another"* (Matthew 13:34-35). Because God has first loved us, we are able to love others. Most of us never tire of singing, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." God's love within us should overflow through us to those in our midst. Jesus tells us that our love for others is the clearest evidence that we are followers of Jesus. Whether we are at school, at work, in our homes, or in our neighborhoods, we have the opportunity to be Jesus' disciples and reach out to others with God's love. What a joy it is also to sing, "They will know that we are Christians by our love."

Just as Jesus chose His twelve disciples, He chooses us to be His disciples. To be called by God to follow Him is both very humbling and very exhilarating. It is humbling in the sense that we are undeserving, sinful, and weak people, who have been charged to carry out His message, and yet, on the other hand, it's also very exhilarating to know that He calls us to carry out His holy work and will empower us to do so. As disciples, our lives are changed forever. With God's help, we can serve the Lord as His disciples.

Put Your Hands Together Food Pantry – June 2026

Pantry Activity Highlights

Food Distributed Through Donations & Food Rescue: 12,358 lbs. / **Food Ministry Service Events:** 5
Families Served: 113 families / **Ministry Partners Served:** 14 agencies

Food Relief Agencies & Ministries Served

Westchester Food Pantry, Berwyn Food Pantry, St. Paul Lutheran (Oak Lawn), St. Luke, Downers Grove Community Kitchen, and Pilsen Pantry.

Celebrating Seven Years of Ministry

This month marks the beginning of our **7th year of food ministry!** What a blessing it has been to serve our neighbors and partner ministries. None of this would be possible without the faithful support, generosity, and prayers of our congregation. Thank you for being an essential part of this ministry!

We are also celebrating another milestone—our pantry truck is now **one year old**. The truck has proven to be one of the best investments made through our pantry grant funding. It has greatly improved our ability to transport food efficiently and, even with higher fuel prices, continues to save the pantry money on transportation costs. The truck has recently been serviced and its license renewed, keeping it ready for another year of service.

Special Request for July

Due to upcoming medical procedures, I will be unable to make our regular trip to the Food Bank in Bloomington during July. As a result, we will need to supplement our pantry supplies through congregational donations and some purchased food.

We would greatly appreciate donations of:

- Canned tuna or chicken
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta
- Rice
- Instant oatmeal

Your support will help ensure that our July pantry bags remain well-stocked for the families we serve.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Unity, fellowship, love, and plenty of laughter—these are the blessings we experience every time we gather to serve God's people. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents. Serving alongside you is a joy, and I look forward to another great year of ministry together.

Important Dates/ Help Needed

- **Monday, June 1** – Food Bank Unloading at 4:45 p.m.
- **Saturday, June 13** – Pantry Distribution Day at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Request

Please continue to keep the Immanuel Food Pantry in your prayers. Pray for another successful year of service, for good health and strength for our volunteers, and for the many families we are blessed to serve. May God continue to use this ministry to share Christian love, bring hope to our community, and give all glory to Him.

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.

June - Faithful Witness

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Hebrews 11:1–20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Judges 6:28–40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Hebrews 11:21–40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Judges 7:1–25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Hebrews 12:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Judges 13:1–25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Hebrews 12:12–29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Judges 15:9–20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Hebrews 13:1–25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Judges 16:4–22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Deuteronomy 32:45–52 | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Judges 16:23–31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Deuteronomy 34:1–12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Ezra 1:1–11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Joshua 1:1–18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Ezra 3:1–13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Joshua 23:1–16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Ezra 4:1–5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Joshua 24:1–28 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Ezra 4:24–5:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Joshua 24:29–33 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Ezra 6:1–12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Judges 3:12–31 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Ezra 6:13–22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Judges 4:1–24 | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Ezra 7:1–10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Judges 5:1–31 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Ezra 7:11–28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Judges 6:1–27 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Ezra 8:15–23 |

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.

June Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 - Trina Bozzi | 14 - Amelia Kahne |
| 1 - Jelisa Washington | 18 - Patricia Washington |
| 10 - Scott Mazanek | 20 - Jake Mitchell |
| 12- Chloe Karpierz | 23 - Junia Schulz |
| 13 - Manny Lepe | 30 - Arianna Pena |

Mark your calendar

- **June 1** – Food Bank Unloading at 4:45 p.m.
- June 4 - Day School Commission Meeting
- June 9 - Church Council Meeting
- **June 13** – Pantry Distribution Day at 9:30 a.m.
- June 21 - Happy Father’s Day
- June 28 - Voters Meeting

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. Mindy Ondrovic
2. Phyllis Ondrovic
3. Pena Family
4. Perez Family
5. *Perry Family*
6. Lynn Rand
7. Susan Redis
8. Gloria Rubietta
9. Joan Rundgren
10. *Santos Brantley - Cruz*
11. *Skinner Family*
12. Rita Stallings
13. Svec Family
14. *Swims Family*
15. Thomas Family
16. *Thurman Family*
17. Lisa Tipples
18. Lance Turner
19. Wayne & Debbie Valentino
20. *The Voss Family*
21. Randy & Michelle Weeks
22. The Welch Family
23. Dorothy Westphal
24. Philbert Wilcox Jr.
25. Brett Willis
26. *The Whitaker / Stevens Family*
27. *The Wilson Family*
28. *The Woodruff Family*
29. *The Williams Family*
30. *The Wright Family*

Kindergarten

**Olivia Bankhead, Joseph Baskerville
Reason Estelle Jeffries, Zion Johnson
Du’Saja Marion, Mila Swims, Regan
Thomas, Mackenzie Thompson,
Harmony Williams**

8th Grade

**Eden Burks, Ayden Gerard, Raniya
Gipson, Ryan Nash, Kennedy Perry
Terrell Wright**