



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Glorifying God. Impacting the Community.*

Immanuel Informer

September 2025

Volume 21, Issue 3

## Giving Cheerfully

In the Old Testament, the people knew what God expected them to give because He commanded the people to tithe, which required the people to give one-tenth of their harvest or produce (income) to the Lord. As New Covenant Christians, we have the freedom to decide what to give, but we are expected to give cheerfully. “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Giving is not to be based strictly by the percentage we give to the Lord but by the largeness of our hearts toward God. God appreciates bighearted people who give their money to Him cheerfully. It’s not always easy to give cheerfully, because we need to spend money on rent or mortgages, food, and clothing, and we would like to take some nice family vacations or drive newer cars, etc. It is tempting to scrimp on generosity or to give with a frown.

Our human spirit has been profoundly twisted by Adam’s sin, and this present world is a hard place to live. There is only one way that we can rise above those circumstances to live a new life where generous and cheerful giving is the norm and not the exception. In order for us to do this, we must have a personal faith relationship with Jesus Christ and day after day tap into God’s rich supply of life-changing grace. The only power that can consistently overcome the sin nature that still clings to each of us is the cross of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul declared this Gospel truth in Galatians 2:20. He emphasized, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” If we believe in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, then our sinful flesh has been nailed to the cross with Christ, and the self-absorbed and fearful human ego no longer has any right or power to direct how we as Christians live. We can take this truth and apply it to the way we give. Through faith, we are empowered to withstand our flesh and the world who wants us to spend more of our money on things of this world and to give less to God. When we place our trust in God, we can honor Him by giving cheerfully.

As new covenant Christians, we give under grace so we are free to decide in our hearts and minds how much to give. Cheerful givers experience giving as a privilege. Giving changes from a “got to” give to a “want to” give. Cheerful giving comes from new hearts that God through His Holy Spirit has changed. Giving is to be inspired and voluntary, not an obligation or only out of necessity or possible recognition. Giving is an outward expression based on an inner conviction. Through faith, we understand that we are God’s instruments through whom He works to help people in need, to support His Church, and to extend His kingdom. May God find us willing and cheerful to use our time and money to do His work.

In the love and fellowship of Christ,

Pastor Steve

**GOD'S LOVE FOR US  
TRANSFORMS US INTO PEOPLE  
WHO ARE CARING AND LOVING,  
AND WE SHOW IT THROUGH  
OUR ACTIONS.**

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience” (Colossians 3:12).



**GOD CREATED THE WORLD,  
AND HE GIVES US THE  
RESPONSIBILITY OF MANAGING  
IT FOR HIM. WHEREVER HE  
PLACES US, WE ARE TO BE  
HIS STEWARDS.**

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15).

## Stewardship Corner

Giving is connected to grace. Giving is a sign that we "get it," that we understand grace, and that we truly believe what God has done for us in Jesus. Grace is God's attitude of undeserved favor toward sinners; it also means God's unearned mercy is powerfully working within us. Faithful management of God's resources, then, is part of a relationship created by grace. It is not governed by rules – we must do this, and we must give that – but by grace, that is, by our relationship to God in Christ Jesus. How much we earn and how much we give, then, are deeply spiritual matters. We cannot go from paycheck to paycheck without thinking carefully about what we are doing with our money. We cannot use God's gifts without carefully considering the ways in which our actions affect others. Not if we are faithful managers,

## Dangers of Materialism

*We live in a land of plenty, which promotes its own twist on contentment. Its version is “buy and possess.” Our culture is geared far more to the material than the spiritual. Our society tells us that we need and deserve more, and that life is not complete unless we have the finest homes and cars plus wealth and success. We are led to believe that happiness and contentment are within our reach if we just acquire a few more things. Advertisements are geared to make us feel discontent so that we will buy more things to make us happy.*

Greed will not allow contentment, because it always urges us to acquire more. No matter how hard we try, we cannot be satisfied by worldly things. There is truth in the old adage, “The more one gets the more one wants.” The love of money can potentially possess a person’s life like no other emotion can. A person can spend a lifetime chasing prosperity that, when found, often destroys him as discussed in the following story:

A ship full of men sailed to an island to look for gold. When they arrived, they di-

vided into two groups. One group would dig for gold; the other would plant crops and prepare the food. As time went on, they found gold. More of the men who prepared the food began to dig for gold. As more men came to the island, most of them also dug for gold. Even the ship was torn apart so the wood could be used to support the mineshafts. The story ends when some time later, people visited the island and found skeletons draped over vast treasures. Greed had taken over; and they had completely missed their meaning and purpose in life.

Money has been called the “the god of those who have too much, and the goal of those who have too little.” Blessed indeed is the person who avoids these extremes. Our goal as God’s people is to seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness. He has promised to take care of our needs.



*A ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hillside*

## **Put Your Hands Together- September 2025 News Report**

### **PYHT Food Pantry Distributions & Activity:**

Grants Written: 1

In-Kind Food Donations/Food Rescue Recovery: 31,588

Food Ministry Service Events: 8 Events

Direct Families Served: Families & Food Ministry Partners 191 Families/7 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.

### **NEWS:**

LOOK AHEAD! Food Pantry Holiday Season Fundraiser is here.

Helping a family in need this season will be greatly appreciated! Turkeys (\$15) Full Meal Box (\$40), no price increases this year.

### **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, September 8th @ 4:30 pm Food Bank Unloading

Saturday, September 13th @ 9:30am PANTRY DAY!

Saturday, October 11th @ 9:30am PANTRY DAY!

Saturday, November 8th @ 9:30am PANTRY DAY!

Saturday, November 22nd Thanksgiving Giveaway @ 9:30am

Saturday, December 13th @ 9:30am PANTRY DAY!

Friday, December 19th Christmas Distribution @ 9:30am

# IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord.

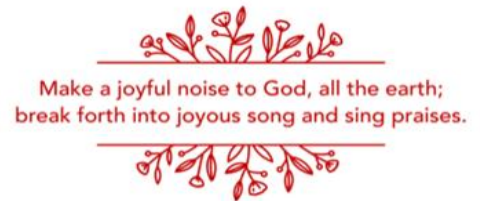
Please join me in welcoming all our students, both returning and new to Immanuel. At Immanuel we are excited to begin another year of learning and growing together. We are pleased that Mrs. Carnita Nash, Pre-K teacher for seven years at ICA, is also Principal. The Lord has gifted her to both teach and be Administrator of ICA. We also welcome back our faculty and staff and are blessed to have two new teachers joining us. Jaimie Anderson (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Dawn Garrett (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade). We are also happy to have Mrs. Deatrice Honey return to ICA as Office Administrator. Please be sure to welcome them to our family.

An ICA highlight is our weekly Chapel service. This is where our students learn about God's love for all people as well as what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The theme verse this year is, "Make a joyful noise" Psalm 98:4. This verse encourages us to praise God for the marvelous victories He has accomplished for all His children. Parents, family and church members are invited to join us each Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m.

**Christian Education Sunday: September 14:** Please come hear the children of Immanuel Christian Academy sing on Christian Education Sunday. All students are invited to participate in church services at Immanuel as we also rededicate our teachers. Service starts at 9:30 a.m. Food and Fellowship will follow, hosted by the Day School Commission and Women's Ministry.

I look forward to meeting all our new families as we journey through this school year, an exciting year of learning and growing together in God's Kingdom. May God, by the power of His Spirit, pour out His blessings on Immanuel Christian Academy this new school year!

With you in Christ,  
Pastor Steve Deombeleg



## Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year!

It brings me great joy to welcome both our returning families and those joining us for the first time. We are so excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and spiritual development here at Immanuel Christian Academy.

This year, our school - wide theme is "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord" (Psalm 98:4), and it beautifully captures the spirit we hope to cultivate throughout the year, one of joy, gratitude, and praise in all that we do. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, or in chapel, we want our students to experience and reflect the joy that comes from walking with Christ.

At ICA, our mission remains strong: to provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures students academically, spiritually, and emotionally. This year promises to be filled with exciting opportunities for learning and service, including:

- *A renewed focus on worship and praise through weekly chapel and classroom devotions*
- *Academic excellence through rigorous, biblically integrated instruction*
- *Service projects and community outreach that allow our students to be the hands and feet of Jesus*
- *Special events, performances, and celebrations that highlight the gifts and talents God has given each child.*

We are looking forward to a fun-filled year with meaningful learning, deepening faith, a strong community and memorable activities. Thank you for your continued partnership in providing a Christ-centered education for our children.

God's Blessings,

Carnita Nash, Principal

**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



# 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!**

@icahillside

# Playground Fundraiser

Attend ICA's Benefit Night or Give Online to support renovations of the ICA playground.

*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.

### **September - Learning from Biblical Teachings**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Luke 8:1–18       | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Proverbs 12:1–28     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Luke 11:1–13      | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Proverbs 13:1–25     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Luke 11:14–28     | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Proverbs 19:1–29     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Luke 11:29–36     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Luke 11:37–54     | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Ecclesiastes 3:1–15  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Luke 12:1–12      | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Ecclesiastes 5:1–20  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Ecclesiastes 7:1–25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Luke 12:13–21     | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Ecclesiastes 12:1–14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Luke 12:22–40     | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Job 28:1–28          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Luke 13:18–30     | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Job 36:5–26          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Luke 14:7–24     | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Job 36:27–37:13      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Luke 15:1–10     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Luke 15:11–32    | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Job 37:14–24         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Luke 18:1–17     | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 2 Chronicles 1:1–12  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Psalm 19             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Proverbs 3:1–35  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Proverbs 4:1–27  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Proverbs 10:1–32 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Proverbs 11:1–31 |  |

#### **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 and school. Members and their families will be listed in alphabetical order each month. Please pray for both their known and unknown needs. *Our School Families in italics.*

1. *McKenzie Family*
2. *Moore Family*
3. Ed & Karen Mulvihill
4. Heidi Murphy
5. *Muskwe Family*
6. *Nash Family*
7. Kathy Nelson
8. Lynda Nickl
9. Mike & Carol Northcutt
10. Mindy Ondrovic
11. Phyllis Ondrovic
12. Pena Family
13. Perez Family
14. *Perry Family*
15. *Wallace - Peters Family*
16. Lynn Rand
17. Susan Redis
18. Gloria Rubietta
19. Joan Rundgren
20. *Santos Brantley - Cruz*
21. *Sims Family*
22. *Skinner Family*
23. *Smith Family*
24. *Swims Family*
25. Rita Stallings
26. Svec Family
27. *Thomas Family*
28. *Thurman Family*
29. Lisa Tipples
30. Lance Turner

### **For the Record**

Death

August 27, Dorothy (Dot) Schneider



## **September Birthdays**

- |                             |                      |                       |                     |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Gloria Rubietta         | 4 - Sheila Railing   | 17 - Tim Bell         | 28 - Omie Lane      |
| 1 - Reason Estelle Jeffries | 8 - Zariah Thomas    | 17 - Lisa Chioda      | 29 - Joan Rundgren  |
| 2 - Ruth Anne Brendemuhl    | 9 - Grace Hadler     | 18 - Pastor Steve     | 26 - Corie Woodruff |
| 3 - Joe Chioda              | 9 - Avignon Peters   | 19 - Mindy Ondrovic   | 29 - Kamryn Perry   |
| 3 - Lapricka Duff           | 10 - Maxwell Railing | 19 - Arlene Gasperich | 30 - Suzie Lepe     |
| 4 - Barbara Brown           | 12 - Olivia Bankhead | 21 - Selena Perez     |                     |
|                             | 15 - Du'saja Marion  | 26 - Clyde Lane       |                     |

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 No School Labor Day	2 5:30pm Day School Commission Meeting	3	4	5 4:30pm HOME VB 7:15 Faculty Meeting 8:30am Late Start	6
7 - 9:30 Worship led by Elders 10:30am Fellowship	8	9 4pm VB Game @Burr Ridge	10	11 6:00pm - 7:00 pm Back to School Night Open House (curriculum night)	12 4pm HOME VB 8:30am Late Start	13 11am Food Pantry Distribution
14 - Christian Ed Sunday 9:30 Worship All School Sing followed by fellow- ship	15 RR Scrip Orders Due 9am	16 4pm Game VB @Itasca 4pm XC Meet @WCA PTL Meeting	17	18	19 8:30am Late Start GRANDPARENTS DAY 11:30 Dismissal	20
21 9:30am Worship with HC 10:30am Fellowship 11:30am Bible Study	22	23 Picture Day 4pm VB Game @Elmhurst	24 XC Meet @JLS	25	26 8:30am Late Start 6pm Family Rec Night	27
28 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00am Voters Meeting	29	30 4pm VB Game @Bensenville				

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[www.immanuel-hillside.org](http://www.immanuel-hillside.org)

**RETURN REQUESTED**

**POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL**

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