

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 7, No. 10

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

September 2018

Love One Another

Five years ago, I came to you in a time of transition and turmoil. My call here to Immanuel was a call to love, a simple call to love the Children of God. One of my first messages to you, and certainly a frequent theme of my sermons to you, was to love one another. You've heard me preach on God's grace and love, on your baptismal identity, on forgiveness and renewal, on going out into the world as a new creature sharing the love and Word of Jesus, but the most common theme to my preaching here has been on Christ's admonition to love.



Following the Last Supper and in preparation to walk to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus gave a powerful sermon to his disciples stressing His will for them in the coming days. St. John records in chapter 15, *"⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

I have loved being with you very much. You will always hold a special place in my heart, but my time for ministry here at Immanuel has come to a close. The Holy Spirit is always Lord of our faith, Lord of the Church, and in charge of our call. Please pray for my family and me for discernment from the Holy Spirit as to what He has in store for us next. We will miss you all very much. Please feel free to keep in contact and keep us in your prayers. You will all be in our hearts and prayers until we meet again.

Jesus' closing words of that final sermon were a prayer. We call it The High Priestly Prayer. With His words, we are reminded that the most important thing in all situations is to remember God's saving love for you. He prayed, "I made known to them Your Name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:26).

(continued on page 2)



We Have The Answer

Recently our Senior Pastor, Jeffrey King, resigned his duties in an open letter to the Elders. Our Elders quickly informed the Boards, and assured members that Pastoral duties would be carried on as usual. Arrangements were soon made for substitute Pastors to fill in on Sunday mornings. I will continue visiting homebound members and handling hospital calls, baptisms, weddings, and special services that call for me to be of help.

The Monday evening Bible study group discussed the situation and offered ideas for keeping God's congregation supported and uplifted during this transition. Many want to help with visits, telephone calls, and prayers.

A member of Immanuel recently gave a joyful report of sharing the Good News to someone who needed spiritual help. This member is in a senior care facility, and a new roommate was brought into her room. The woman was crying and crying. "Why are you crying?" asked our fellow member. "I'm afraid," was the reply. "Can I pray for you?" the member asked. "Please do," was the tear-filled reply. A friendship developed and the Bible was shared.

We, children of God, have answers to the troubles in this veil of tears. Reach out to those hurting, pray, share God's word – call on the Holy Spirit for words that can calm our fears.

~Pastor Claudio Perez

Love One Another . . .

(continued from page 1)

If you remember my time with you at all, please remember that I came to share the saving message of God's love for you through Jesus Christ. I came to give you Jesus. In Jesus we shall all meet again.

*~God bless you,
Pastor Jeffrey W. King*



The Board of Elders asks that all members of Immanuel pray for the King family and for Immanuel during this time of transition. Going forward, the Board of Elders are working with our Circuit Visitor (formerly known as Circuit Counselor) to arrange for a vacancy pastor.

The Board of Elders will conduct focus group and town hall meetings to solicit opinions from members and various organizations within Immanuel on what we want in our next Pastor. This information will be used to fill out the paperwork that is then submitted to and used by the Texas District Office to assemble a call list of candidates for Immanuel to consider.

Although the formal Call Committee is the Board of Elders, as in the past, there will be a Call Advisory Committee that will work with the Elders during the process. Please contact any Elder (Ray Thomas, Chair; Steve Hairgrove, Max Bolen, Mike Rivera, Phil Nelson) if you have questions or would like to volunteer to serve on the Advisory Committee.

~Ray Thomas

Upcoming Voters' Meetings
Sundays after the
Bible Class/Sunday School Hour
September 23rd December 2nd
Light Lunch Follows



Anyone with a desire to serve in Immanuel's Music Ministry is invited to an informational meeting/meet & greet on Thursday, September 6, at 7:00 pm in the Music room next to the Sanctuary balcony.

Commitment to musical service will be weekly rehearsals, and participating twice a month in the worship service.

We are currently seeking additional members for our Handbell Choir. If you know your left from your right, and can flick your wrist, you are a perfect candidate. Please contact Stephen Hernandez for more details.

Instrumentalists: If you play an instrument, and would be interested in participating in worship services, please email Stephen Hernandez at music@immanuelhouston.org.

There will be more musical opportunities throughout the coming year; please stay tuned for more information about Family Choir and seasonal musical commitments.

*~Stephen Hernandez
 Immanuel Director of Music*

Houston LCMS Young Professionals

Mark your calendars! Our next event will be a cornhole tournament at Fishers of Men on Saturday, October 20. We also now have a Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/YPHoustonLCMS/>



Youth

Two of Immanuel's youth and their leaders went to Moody Gardens at the end of July.



Cameron & Lane

It was fun going through the aquarium and rainforest exhibits, doing the ropes course, and enjoying the water park.



Cameron, Phil, and Lane

~photos & text by Jessie Nelson

Sunday School

The Summer has been a time of fun-filled learning about Jesus. During July and August, we worked on Bible Science. The children have been doing several Science experiments. Week



Week 1: Soda Geyser



Week 3: Exploding Bag



Willie,
the Welcome Robot

one was soda geysers. The experiment showed that by dropping small things, Mentos, into a diet soda comes a large eruption. Just as Jesus fed the five thousand with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, with Jesus we will always have all that we need. Week two, we made a relaxing lava lamp. Mary took time to listen to Jesus, he likewise wants us to take time to relax and spend time with him. Week three was the exploding bag. This experiment showed how a chemical reaction can cause things to get out of control. While our experiment didn't actually explode, there were still lessons to learn. One, things don't always work out but we have to make the best of things and stay focused on Jesus. Secondly, when life seems to get out of control, Jesus can deliver us just as he healed a demon-possessed man.



Week 2: Lava Lamp

The children have continued work on robots. "Willie", short for Wilhelmina, the Welcome robot was created. Willie welcomed friends and family into church on August 19th along with inviting them to join us for a great time for Rally Day on Sunday August 26th.

Our door is our way of sharing a message to all of ECE. Our door in August was used to welcome back all the 3 and 4 year-old children from ECE. Throughout the year, decorating the Sunday school door, helps the class share the message of Jesus' love, invite others to join us on Sunday mornings as well as show their creative artwork with all who walk the halls downstairs.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

Cathleen Chevallier
Sunday School Superintendent





Focus on Stewardship

It's September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And since everything is back into full swing, it's a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, "Daddy, give me six pence to buy you a birthday present." Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is six-pence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129)

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers — stewards — acting on His

behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (*Deuteronomy 8:17–18*), but also all that we are in this life (*1 Corinthians 6:20*).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability.

For the Lord said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (*Luke 12:48b*).

And from this comes blessing and reward: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (*Matthew 25:21*).

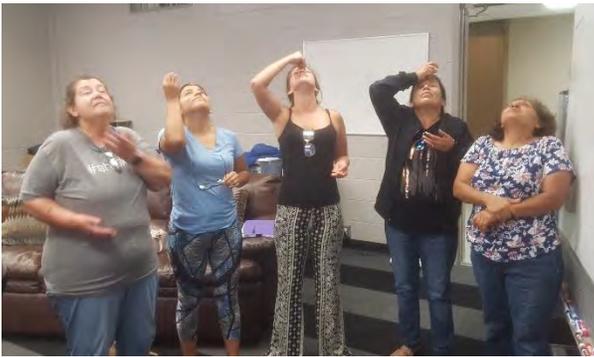
We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands.

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (*Galatians 4:1–7*).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

~submitted by Kathy Angst

(*Stewardship newsletter insert for September 2018, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=Za1vr9RBObYJwcknvSkswDp7t9U3kw08>*)



Teachers
In-Service
Day

Team building
exercises



Rejoice in the
Lord always,
I will say it
again:
Rejoice!
Philippians
4:4



Teachers working hard on
their bulletin boards and
butterfly garden preparing for
the start of school.





**Back
to
School**



Mission Report: Los Schullers for God in Puerto Rico

[Excerpt from the September 2018 newsletter.]

We do NOT know what will happen tomorrow. Proof of that is our grandson, Jacob, falling and breaking his leg. Gema went up to be with him. My father had a hip replacement. After that was done he fell in the shower and pulled it out of the socket, kind of like a Jacob and angel wrestling match. Now Dad does physical therapy with pain.



Pastor Schuller and his father.

God used us to see to our family and minister to them. In the interim, the new Pastor in Mayaguez took care of our worship at Fuente de Vida in Ponce, Puerto Rico. People came, even bringing friends. Our mall, Salmos Y Café (Psalms and Coffee), was led by a member of that group, Richard Yaluk. For the Wednesday Bible class, the other Pastor drove over from the West Coast of Puerto Rico and led it without a hitch.

Our job is to “give away our ‘job,’” so that the body of Christ can continue. We joined together in the Dominican Republic for that very purpose, to have a pow-wow – isn’t that an Indian name for a gathering? – under the direction of the “Chief,” Rev. Ted Krey. “So then, not the one that plants nor the one that waters, but it is God who gives the growth.”
(1 Corinthians 3:7)

We see how God allows His people to grow, just springing up where we might not see how. The other day, I saw a down-and-out man sitting on the promenade to the central plaza, one block from our church. Since I had my Pastoral collar on, the man asked for something.

So I brought him a simple shirt, then asked him if he wanted a bag of food from CARD (Centro de Apoyo y Rescate al Desastre), the local name for Lutheran Disaster Relief. We got his shirt, bought a plastic bag full of food, and I told him the Gospel in simple form. On our way, the man grinned – we saw someone we both knew. This man also accompanied us to the church – and so the mission grows.

Bless us as we all work together, “As no one can build on another foundation than that which is already set, that is Jesus Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 3:11).

Thank you each for your personal dedication to the Lord by the gifts and prayers that you offer in behalf of the Word.

*~ In Christ,
Rev. Richard & Gema Schuller*

*[Sign up to receive full newsletters via email at
<https://missioncentral.us/schuller/>]*

Support Our Sponsored Missionaries

Dominican Republic Ministry Rev. Joel Fritsche & Family

Seminary Support

You can donate online through the following link: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/seminary-support>.

By mail, make a check payable to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and specify “Dominican Republic Seminary” in the memo line. Mail to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Mission Advancement
PO Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

General Support

Support/prayer card:
http://prayercards.lcms.org/Fritsche_DR_April%202017.pdf

To support the Fritsche's ministry, you may send a tax- deductible gift to either of the following:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Joel & Clarion Fritsche.”

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at <http://www.lcms.org/fritsche> or call (888) 930-4438.

Puerto Rico Ministry Rev. Richard & Gema Schuller

Send a tax deductible gift to:
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central-LCMS World, 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034-7105

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and include Schuller, Puerto Rico, and A-10898-69376 in the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online through their website <http://www.lcms.org/schuller>

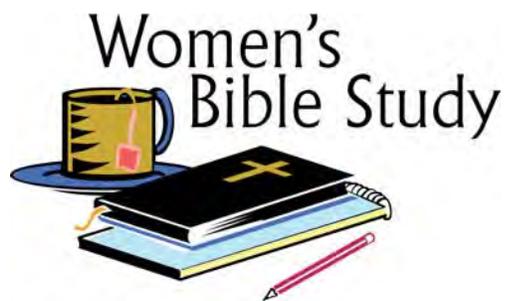
Alaska Ministry

Donate online at:
<http://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org>

Mail donations to:
Alaska Mission for Christ, 8100 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage AK 99518

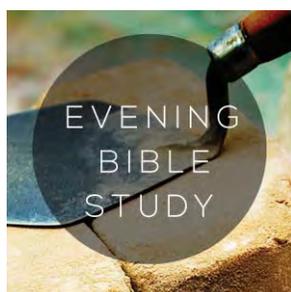
Donate via Thrivent Choice Dollars:
<https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>

Donate via Amazon.com's Smile program
<http://smile.amazon.com>

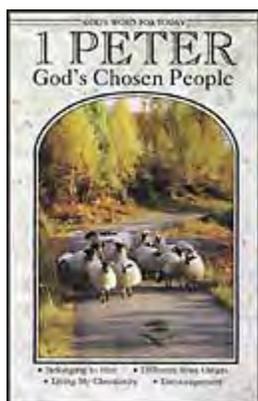


The Wednesday morning ladies' Bible study group will begin a study of the book of Proverbs on September 5th. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. If you have not been attending, this is a good time to join or re-join our study.

~Sandi Hrozek



The Monday evening Bible study meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month, 6:30-@8:00 pm, starting with a pot-luck.



We've just begun a study on the first letter of Peter. We invite anyone to join us at our next meeting on September 17th. If you would like to get a study guide or need any additional information, please ask Ray Thomas or Barbara Szalkowski.

Childcare is available by request – please contact the Church Office to make those arrangements.

Introducing Cru Campus Ministry

In 1951, the Campus Crusade for Christ ministry was established. Now known as Cru in the United States, it "has a ministry presence in 190 countries, which represents 99.6 percent of the world's population."

(Cru website, History, 2000-present)

I have been supporting the daughter of a friend in her ministry with Cru, and I want to share her ministry with my family at Immanuel.

~Barbara Szalkowski

Greetings from Council Bluffs, Iowa! My name is Anna Brooks, and I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at a sister church, St. John's Lutheran LCMS in Glendale, WI. God worked in my life through the school, church, and my family drawing me to himself. When I went off to college I met many other students who did not have the same upbringing and faith that I had. For most of them, God was in the back seat, or not a part of their life at all. My heart broke as I saw a generation growing up not knowing the Lord. As I prayed and asked God for wisdom regarding what part he would have me play in pointing these students to himself, he led me to join the staff of Cru, the Christian ministry I had been a part of during my time in college.

Since joining the Cru staff at, God has given me so many opportunities to engage with those who are far from God, to encourage those who are suffering, and to invest in those who hunger to know God more. I have served on campuses in Milwaukee and Iowa City, IA.

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Cru Ministry . . .

(continued from page 9)



A year ago I married my husband, David, moved to Council Bluffs and now serve in the area of finances. I lead financial processes, maximize financial resources and equip

fellow laborers toward the fulfillment of Cru's mission. This mission is to win, build, and send Christ-centered multiplying disciples who launch spiritual movements.

[Excerpt from July 2018 e-newsletter]

This past month I started meeting up with two college age women, Madi & Bailey. We meet weekly to read the Bible together, pray, and encourage one another through life's ups and downs. Currently, we are studying the book of James.

My desire is that these women will know how to study the Bible for themselves and will become women who rely deeply on God & His word. Recently, I have found following the SOAP acronym helpful in my own time with God, and in our time together:

Scripture: James 1:5-8

⁵"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe, and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the

sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."

Observation:

- Promise: God will give us wisdom if we ask for it.
- Ask confidently; don't doubt, instead, believe that God will give you wisdom.
- Trials are referenced in v. 2-4. In times of trial we need wisdom from God.
- This is hard, how do we know when we're receiving wisdom from God or hearing from him?
- We realized that too often we don't even ask God for wisdom, instead we try to rely on ourselves.

Application: This week, notice an area where you are lacking wisdom. Ask confidently for God to give you wisdom for the situation. Believe that he will answer.

Prayer: *God, you are the source of all wisdom and truth. Please give me wisdom in _____ situation. I eagerly wait for this wisdom that I know is coming from you.*

Join us in reading the book of James. If you have time, watch The Bible Project's video on James, <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/james/>. It provides helpful insight into the structure & themes of the book. I'm praying that God fills you with wisdom.

(continued on page 11)



Cru Ministry . . .

(continued from page 10)

I rely on the generous giving and prayers of people who look forward to seeing many students fix their eyes on Jesus and be transformed by Him.

If you are led to give financially, please do so online at give.cru.org/0654830 or by check made payable to *Cru* and mailed to *Anna Brooks, 304 Willow Ave Council Bluffs, IA 51503*. If you would like to receive monthly prayer requests and updates on how God is at work through my ministry with Cru please email me at Anna.Brooks@cru.org. Finally, to learn more about Cru, check out our website at cru.org.

~Anna Brooks

| Newsletter Contributors | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Editor..... | Barbara Szalkowski |
| Contributors..... | Kathy Angst |
| ..... | Anna Brooks |
| ..... | Cathleen Chevallier |
| ..... | Lynn Eickemeyer |
| ..... | Karen Evans |
| ..... | Denise Goehring |
| ..... | Stephen Hernandez |
| ..... | Sandi Hrozek |
| ..... | Pastor Jeffrey King |
| ..... | Connie Meave & ECE Staff |
| ..... | Jessie Nelson |
| ..... | Pastor Claudio Perez |
| ..... | Mike Rivera |
| ..... | Rev. Richard & Gema Schuller |
| ..... | Ray Thomas |
| Graphic Design..... | Matthew Szalkowski |



2nd Annual
Sunday School
"Love" Project

Help us show **Love** and **Reach out** to children of all nations
by filling **30 Shoeboxes** for Christmas



*Un-decorate the Tree,
take an ornament or two*



Bring those items and more, if you wish, back by **Sunday, 10/21**.
All items will be separated into shoeboxes, wrapped and labelled for shipping.
Any questions, contact Cathleen Chevallier, 936-499-5531

Serving Immanuel in September & October 2018

| | Sunday September 2 | Sunday September 9 | Sunday September 16 | Sunday September 23 | Sunday September 30 |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Elder | Mike R. |
| Acolyte | Cameron W. | Molly H. | Cameron W. | Emily H. | Cameron W. |
| Usher Team | #2 Larry G. | #3 Ralph E. | #4 John C. | #5 Bill O. | #1 Bill E. |
| Media | Barbara S. | Karen E. | Jackie A. | Jackie A. | Barbara S. |
| Audio | Ray T. | Gerald O. | Max B. | Ray T. | Gerald O. |
| Altar Guild | Cleo F. & Margaret B. |
| Trustee | Ashlee F. |

| | Sunday October 7 | Sunday October 14 | Sunday October 21 | Sunday October 28 |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elder | Steve H. | Steve H. | Steve H. | Steve H. |
| Acolyte | Molly H. | Steve H. | Emily H. | Cameron W. |
| Usher Team | #2 Larry G. | #3 Ralph E. | #4 John C. | #5 Bill O. |
| Media | Karen E. | Jackie A. | Barbara S. | Karen E. |
| Audio | Max B. | Gerald O. | Max B. | Ray T. |
| Altar Guild | Sigrid R. & Carolyn B. | Sigrid R. & Carolyn B. | Sigrid R. & Carolyn B. | Sigrid R. & Carolyn B. |
| Trustee | Max B. | Max B. | Max B. | Max B. |

If you would like to fill in, trade, or substitute please contact the church office. Thank you.



Immanuel Lutheran Church - September 2018



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|--------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Usher Team #2 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am Nelson's Baby Shower @ 12:00-3:00 pm | 3 Labor Day Offices Closed ECE Closed  | 4 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 am-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm All Boards @ 7:00 pm | 5 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am | 6 Bingo @ 1:00-3:00 pm FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 - 1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm Music Ministry Information Meeting @ 7:00 pm | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Usher Team #3 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am | 10 | 11 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 am-1:30 pm Naomi Meeting @ 10:00 am (MH) RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm Council @ 7:00 pm | 12 | 13 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10: am-1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm | 14 | 15 Newsletter Deadline Friends of Down Syndrome Fiesta Luncheon 9:00 am-4:00 pm |
| 16 Usher Team #4 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am | 17 Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm | 18 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 am-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm | 19 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am | 20 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 - 1:30 pm Hamburger Fry @ 11:00 am-1:00 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00 - 9:00 pm | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Usher Team #5 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am Voters @ 11:45 am | 24 | 25 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 am-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm | 26 | 27 FOD Work Day (MH) 10:00 am-1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Social Ministry Door Offering Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am | | | | | | |



Immanuel Lutheran Church
1440 Courtlandt St
306 E 15th St
Houston, TX 77008

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2489
NORTH HOUSTON,
TEXAS

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Love God ~ Care for Others



**Hamburger Fry
Returns!
Thursday
September 20th
11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

