

# Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights  
Celebrating 100 Years • 1919-2019

Vol. 8, No. 2

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

January 2019

**Happy New Year!** Isn't it great to be able to start all over with a new year! It gives us the opportunity to put the troubles and failures of the past behind us and look forward to a new year with joyful anticipation. This is especially true for us as God's children. Jarsoslav Vajda, a noted Lutheran hymn writer, translated these words of a New Year's hymn:



*Now greet the swiftly changing year  
With joy and penitence sincere.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.*

*God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!  
To all our pleas incline Your ear;  
Upon our lives rich blessing trace  
In this new year of grace.*

*(LSB 896:1, 7)*

As God's people we are reminded that we don't just get a fresh start on the first day of a new year. Instead, we get a fresh start every day, knowing that, in Christ, all of our sins have been forgiven.

I consider it a great honor and blessing to serve you as your pastor. As we travel through the church year together, beginning with Advent and the preparation for the celebration of our Lord's birth, and culminating with the Last Sunday of the Church Year and the hearing of the great and wonderful promise of the end times, we look forward to the day we all wait and pray for, the final Advent of our Lord.

As we consider the doctrine and practice of the Lutheran Church, I thought it might be helpful to include some brief, simple explanations ...

*(continued on page 2)*

# New Year . . .

*(continued from page 1)*

## What is a Lutheran?

I recently read a very easy way to understand what it means to be a Lutheran and how we might explain our faith to our family and friends. It is simply this: "Is means is, all means all, and you're forgiven means you're forgiven."

1. **"Is means is."** This is a reference to Jesus' words in the Lord's Supper. As Lutherans, we take Jesus at His Word and believe that His true body and blood are given to us "in, with, and under" the bread and wine of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of our sins. We don't try to explain these words away, or figure out how they could be true. God has promised to graciously come to us through physical means, and He does. Is simply means is.

2. **"All means all."** This is a reference to the fact that Jesus died for all the sins of all people on the cross. Jesus did not just die for the sins of those who would believe in Him, He took the sins of the whole world upon Himself. There is now no one whose sins have not been atoned for, and to whom Jesus wants to gift the gift of forgiveness. All means all.

3. And finally, **"you're forgiven means you're forgiven."** Jesus's forgiveness is full and complete and free – we do not and cannot do anything for it nor add anything to it. No decisions, desires, or deeds on our part – forgiveness is all from Jesus and all His work.

So the next time someone asks you: "Lutheran? What's that?" try this little phrase!

Maybe it will help you explain, and help them understand the wonderful work of our Savior for us!

A Blessed Christmas and Epiphany to you all!

*✠ Pastor Richard Gaub*



## Immanuel Family Continues to Grow!



Immanuel members rejoiced with the Sweers family when their newborn daughter, Joy, became a child of God and a member of the Immanuel family through the miracle of baptism on Sunday, December 2.

In addition to Joy, Immanuel welcomed the rest of her family, Cory & Laura Sweers, and big brother Isaac, as well as Craig and Alyson Hyslop and their children Eve, Siena, Colette, Esther, and Finn, all transferring from Memorial Houston earlier this fall.

We pray that we Immanuel members will be a blessing to these young families and that we will be blessed by having them among us.

## Centennial Celebration Committee News

2019 is a special year for Immanuel Lutheran Church. It has been our privilege to share the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with those in this community for more than a century. As we mark this milestone anniversary, we honor those who went before us and look to the future with the hope that we will continue to be able to share the knowledge of God's love and saving grace with all we meet.

*~Winnie McNamara, Chair  
Centennial Committee*



## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Service Project

Thank you to everyone who made donations to a project we love contributing to. Our total donation was less than last year, but HAWC was very happy to receive our check for \$3,116 and a truckload of toys! Your generosity has provided a gift for more than 150 children this Christmas. I thank each and every one of you who were able to help make a difference in the life of a child entangled in domestic violence through no choice of their own.

*~Winnie McNamara*

## ECE Scholastic Book Fair



**January 14-21  
Miertschin Hall**

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be here soon – help us put new books in our ECE classrooms!

### Snacks and Shopping Saturday

January 19  
10:00 am–2:00 pm

### Social Sunday Shopping Soup and Salad Lunch

January 20  
11:30 am–1:30 pm

### Open Weekdays

7:30-9:30 am • 11:00 am-Noon  
2:30–6:00 pm

*~Winnie McNamara*

## Centennial Snapshot



*Our first church building dedicated in 1920 located at 1408 Allston St.*

*~Winnie McNamara*

# Christmas in Sunday School



Our annual SS Christmas Party was held on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. We had fun playing games that focused on the Story of Christmas. We also enjoyed delicious cookies.



Children, 3 and Over, are invited to join us every Sunday morning, downstairs at 10:15 am as we learn about Jesus.

## Our Dual Christmas Trees

Tree (Left) – bought ornaments  
Tree (Right) – homemade ornaments



SS Door Decorations:  
Sharing the Word with ECE



From Everyone in the  
Sunday School Dept.

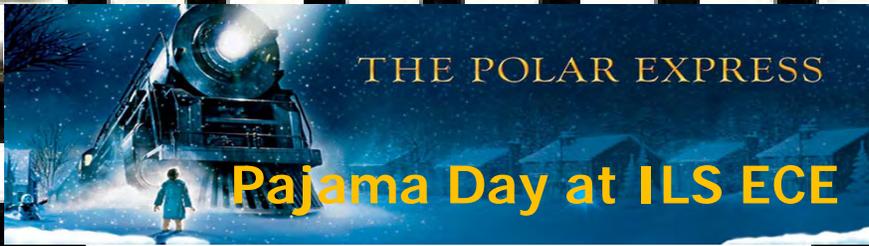
~Cathleen Chevallier  
Sunday School Superintendent

# Christmas 2018



*~photos submitted by Connie Meave*





THE POLAR EXPRESS  
Pajama Day at ILS ECE

*~photos submitted by Connie Meave*





**Front, left to right:**  
*Evelyn Marsh, Cleo Fischer, Dora Schulle, Bob McFarland*

**Back, left to right:**  
*Margaret Beacom, Carla Faske, Pastor Perez, Elise Perez, Sigrid Reifel, Ray Thomas, Dorothy Klander, Bonnie Thomas, Martha McFarland, Maxine Arndt*

*~submitted by Cathleen Chevallier*

## 2018 Naomi Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 9, the Naomi Ladies Group got together to have their annual Christmas Party at Cleo Fischer's house. The afternoon was filled with friends having fun and fellowship along with great food. Pastor Perez brought Christmas games which tasked the brain on unscrambling Christmas phrases to filling in the blank of Christmas Carols. Everyone enjoyed a round of Spanish bingo. A great time was had by all!



May the Lord  
 bless you all  
 with a  
 Happy and  
 Prosperous  
 New Year!



# Christmas Carolling 2018

Members of Immanuel came out Sunday afternoon, December 16, to sing Christmas carols for and with some of our shut-in members and friends: Herb Richter, Doris Baker (*not pictured*), Laura Donovan, Henry & Val Dietrich, Dick (*not pictured*) & Vernice Wilson, and T. C. Koester. Thanks to Pastor Perez for coordinating the route, and Lonnie & Kathy Angst, Max and Nikki Bolen, Ray Thomas, Barbara Szalkowski, Dora Schulle, Evelyn Marsh, and the Sweers family, Cody & Laura, Isaac & Joy, for bringing the joy of Christmas to our brothers and sisters.



*Herb Richter*



*Linda Donovan*



*Henry & Val Dietrich*



*Dick & Vernice Wilson*



*T.C. Koester*

*~photos by Max Bolen*



## Focus on Stewardship

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (*John 13:35*) and "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (*Luke 6:36*).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins, [a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern

of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (*Ex. 25: 1-9*)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to "take for me a contribution" and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up "the contribution for me."

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: "let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst." The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God's son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

*(continued on page 9)*

## January Athletic Events

**Fri. Jan. 4.** Basketball - Girls JV 4:30 pm,  
Varsity following

**Thurs. Jan. 10.** Boys Varsity Soccer 6:30 pm

**Fri. Jan. 11.** Basketball - Girls JV 4:30 pm,  
Boys JV 5:30 pm, Girls Varsity 6:30 pm, Boys  
Varsity 7:30 pm, Boys JV Soccer 5:30pm

**Mon. Jan. 14.** Girls Varsity Soccer 5:00 pm

**Thurs. Jan. 17.** Girls Varsity Soccer 5:00 pm,  
Boys Varsity Soccer 6:30 pm

**Fri. Jan. 18.** Boys JV Soccer 5:00 pm

**Mon. Jan. 21.** Boys Varsity Soccer 6:30 pm

**Tuesday Jan. 22.** Boys JV Soccer 5:00 pm,  
Girls Varsity Soccer 7:00 pm

**Thursday Jan. 24.** Girls Varsity Soccer 5:00  
pm

**Fri. Jan. 25.** Basketball - Boys JV 5:00 pm,  
Girls Varsity 6:00 pm, Boys Varsity 7:30 pm

**Mon. Jan. 28.** Boys Varsity Soccer 6:30 pm

### Admissions Preview Brunch

Tuesday, January 15, 9:00 am

Plan ahead to attend this year's musical  
**The Wizard of Oz - April 25-27**

**Thank you** for your support of the ministry of Lutheran High North. We appreciate your prayers for the staff and students.

About half of the students at Lutheran High North are Lutheran and most of the rest are Christian. But there is also a mission field at LHN with some students who are not Christian and with some who are questioning what they believe. The teachers and staff are intentional about sharing the words of scripture and the love of Jesus with all of the students.

The mission of Lutheran High North is to offer students excellence in academics and meaningful ministry that prepares them to be leaders in their schools, churches and communities.

*~Lynn Eickemeyer*

## Stewardship . . .

*(continued from page 8)*

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

*~submitted by Kathy Angst*

*(Stewardship newsletter insert for January 2019, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=mR2LdSfl3ioD5FBiFrip4CRtRmleRhGE>)*

# 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](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>

# Immanuel Lutheran Church - January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> New Year's Day! <b>Offices Closed</b> <b>ECE Closed</b> 	<b>2</b> <b>Offices Closed</b> <b>ECE Closed</b>  <b>No Ladies Bible Study</b>	<b>3</b> <b>ECE Students Return to School</b> <b>Bingo</b> <b>@ 1:00–3:00 pm</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b> <b>Men's Basketball</b> <b>@ 6:00–9:00 pm</b>	4	5
<b>6</b> <b>Usher Team #1</b> <b>Worship Service w/Communion</b> <b>@ 9:00 am</b> <b>Bible Class &amp; Sunday School @ 10:15 am</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>Evening Bible Study</b> <b>6:30–8:00 pm</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Naomi Meeting</b> <b>@ 10:00 am (MH)</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b> <b>RDCDS</b> <b>@ 7:30–9:30 pm</b> <b>All Boards @ 7:00 pm</b>	9	<b>10</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b>  <b>Men's Basketball</b> <b>@ 6:00–9:00 pm</b>	11	12
<b>13</b> <b>Usher Team #2</b> <b>Worship Service w/Communion</b> <b>@ 9:00 am</b> <b>Bible Class &amp; Sunday School @ 10:15 am</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>First Day for Scholastic Book Fair</b>	<b>15</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b> <b>RDCDS</b> <b>@ 7:30–9:30 pm</b> <b>Youth 6:30-8:30 pm</b> <b>Council @ 7:00 pm</b> <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Ladies Bible Study</b> <b>@ 10:00 am</b>  <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>	<b>17</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b> <b>Men's Basketball</b> <b>@ 6:00–9:00 pm</b> <b>Choir @ 6:30 pm</b> <b>Bells @ 7:30 pm</b> <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Usher Team #3</b> <b>Worship Service w/Communion</b> <b>@ 9:00 am</b> <b>BC/SS @ 10:15 am</b> <b>Social Sunday</b> <b>Lunch @ 11:45–1:00</b> <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>	<b>21</b> <b>M L King Day</b>  <b>Evening Bible Study</b> <b>6:30–8:00 pm</b> <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b>	<b>22</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b>  <b>RDCDS</b> <b>@ 7:30–9:30 pm</b> <b>Last Day for Scholastic Book Fair</b>	23	<b>24</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b>  <b>NO Hamburger Fry</b>  <b>Men's Basketball</b> <b>@ 6:00–9:00 pm</b> <b>Choir @ 6:30 pm</b> <b>Bells @ 7:30 pm</b>	25	26
<b>27</b> <b>Usher Team #4</b> <b>Worship Service w/Communion</b> <b>@ 9:00 am</b> <b>Bible Class &amp; Sunday School @ 10:15 am</b> <b>Voters @ 11:30 am</b>	28	<b>29</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b>  <b>RDCDS</b> <b>@ 7:30–9:30 pm</b>	30	<b>31</b> <b>FOD Work Day (MH)</b> <b>@ 10:00–1:30 pm</b> <b>Men's Basketball</b> <b>@ 6:00–9:00 pm</b>  <b>Choir @ 6:30 pm</b> <b>Bells @ 7:30 pm</b>		

# Serving Immanuel January~February 2019

	Sunday January 6	Sunday January 13	Sunday January 20	Sunday January 27
<b>Elder</b>	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.
<b>Acolyte</b>	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.
<b>Usher Team</b>	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.
<b>Media</b>	Barbara S.	Karen E.	Jackie A.	Barbara S.
<b>Audio</b>	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Denise G. & Delores Q.			
<b>Trustee</b>	Ashley F.	Ashley F.	Ashley F.	Ashley F.

	Sunday February 3	Sunday February 10	Sunday February 17	Sunday February 24
<b>Elder</b>	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.
<b>Acolyte</b>	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.	Emily H.
<b>Usher Team</b>	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.
<b>Media</b>	Karen E.	Jackie A.	Barbara S.	Karen E.
<b>Audio</b>	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.			
<b>Trustee</b>	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1440 Cortlandt St  
Houston, TX 77008

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**Return Service Requested**

To the Family of:

*Love God ~ Care for Others*



**CALLING ALL  
YOUTH**

**Youth Fellowship  
Nights Return!  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays  
Beginning  
January 15<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-8:00 pm**