

Connections

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

Vol. 8, No. 6

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

May 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Grace, mercy, and peace are yours through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Hymn 459 and 460 of *Lutheran Service Book* join together to confess the Christian faith in a profound and beautiful way:



Christians to the Paschal Victim

Offer your thankful praises!

The Lamb the sheep has ransomed:

Christ, who only is sinless,

Reconciling sinners to the Father.

Death and life have contended

In that combat stupendous:

The Prince of Life, who died,

Reigns immortal.

Christ is a-risen from the grave's dark prison.

So let our joy rise full and free; Christ our comfort true will be.

Alleluia!

I encourage you to read the remaining stanzas and meditate on the words. I wish to thank Stephen, the choir, the bell choir, and all musicians for the special music during Holy Week and on Easter.



(continued on page 2)

Blessings of Easter. . .

(continued from page 1)

The next two great feasts of the Church, Ascension and Pentecost, are joined together in the promises of our Lord, "If I depart, I will send Him [the Holy Spirit] to you". Jesus said these words to His disciples in John 16:7 on the night when He was betrayed. In fact, for that very reason, Jesus says that "it is to your advantage that I go away."

At His Ascension, Jesus repeats this promise (Acts 1:8), "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Ascension of our Lord is a Feast that celebrates the great "advantage" that is ours in Christ. He has "gone away" by His death, resurrection, and ascension. He has thereby atoned for our sins, won forgiveness and eternal salvation, and overcome death and hell and the power of the devil. By His institution of preaching, Baptism, Absolution, and Holy Communion during the days of His Passion and resurrection, He distributes this salvation to us, forgives us our sins, and opens the kingdom of heaven to us.

Jesus' "going away" does not mean that He is far from us, it only means that we cannot see Him now. His promise to be "with us always" (Matthew 28:20) still stands, even when we do not see Him. His presence, and the distribution of all His blessings, takes place in the saving gifts of the spoken and written Word, Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper.

At Pentecost we celebrate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in these same gifts. The

bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon the church is the culmination and fulfillment of all that Christ Jesus did for us in His passion and resurrection. The Spirit, by whom the worlds were made, now imparts life to us through the Gospel. "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love."

May God the Father, who created you; may God the ✠-Son, who by His blood redeemed you; may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified you to be His temple, keep you now and forevermore!

*~God bless you all,
✠Pastor Gaub*



Fritsche Family Visit

Pastor Fritsche and his family will be stateside for Home Service this summer: six weeks of travel, visiting and reconnecting with partner congregations, as well as two weeks of rest, and spending time with family in the states.

The Fritsches will join us at Immanuel on Monday evening, June 3, to share a meal and a presentation on their ministry in the Dominican Republic. Dinner 5:30-6:30 pm; presentation at 7:00 pm. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to support this vibrant and important ministry either that evening, through the offering plate, or in the church office between now and then.

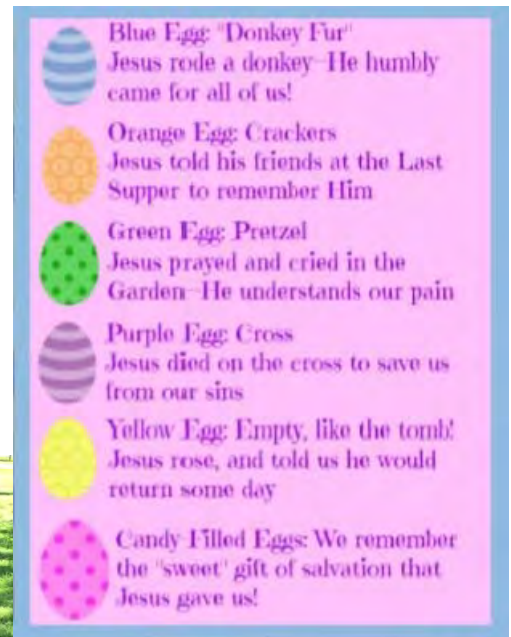
For more information, contact Winnie McNamara.

Sunday School



Palm Sunday was a celebration day in Sunday School. The children started the day eating fruit and doing word search puzzles focused on Easter morning. While they were searching, Mr. Thomas went out to the big playground and hid Easter eggs. Each child had to hunt 6 eggs, one of each color. Once back in the room, we opened one egg at a time and had a discussion about its content and its meaning in relationship to Holy Week. The weather was beautiful. While the children were few, a great time was had by all.

Each Sunday is an hour of fun, learning about Jesus and what he has and continues to do for us. We have plenty of seats. Join us each Sunday morning, downstairs at 10:15 am.



~Cathleen Chevallier
Sunday School Superintendent

Call Committee

Soon, each member should expect to receive a Pastoral Profile Survey. This survey will ask you to describe your desire for the priorities and leadership skills of a pastor, among other things. You should expect the survey to take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

Once we have gathered the surveys we will report our findings to our Mission and Ministry Facilitator, Rev. Jon Braunersreuther, and to the congregation.

In addition to the Pastoral Profile Survey, members have the opportunity to nominate a Pastor for our call list. Forms are located on the table in the Narthex and can be returned to Steve Hairgrove or the Elders' box in the office.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

~Lauren Neu

THANK YOU

Thankyou to all who helped make the delicious lunch that was served after the funeral. It was greatly appreciated.

*Friends and Staff @ Immanuel,
Thankyou very much for the beautiful flowers that were sent for mom's funeral. It was kind and thoughtful of you all. Mom loved all the people of her church family and each and everyone ment the world to her.
The family of
Cleo Fischer*



Lutheran High North

Spring Concert

Monday May 13 7:00 pm

Summer Camps

June 3-28

Grades 4-9

Movie Making & Keyboarding (Computer), Robotics, Art, Band, Guitar, Athletics

<http://www.lutheranhighnorth.net/summercamp/>

Graduation

Saturday May 25 3:00 pm

Grace Presbyterian Church

~Lynn Eickemeyer

2019 LWML Spring Rally

On Sunday, April 7th, the Naomi ladies group hosted the LWML Spring Rally for the White Oak Circuit. The White Oak Circuit consists of LWML groups from Immanuel, Our Savior, Concordia, St. Andrew and Gethsemane. Gabriel, the comfort dog, attended with Pastor Engel from Messiah.

While the afternoon started out with heavy thunderstorms, the attendance was good. The rally consisted of devotions, singing and Circuit business. Then, before any could have refreshments, they had to match their line of a song with others. Once you had all the lines of a stanza of a familiar song, you had to sing the song, then you could have refreshments.

It was a great afternoon sharing ideas and socializing with members of Lutheran churches.

~Cathleen Chevallier





Focus on Stewardship

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what

is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.

Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

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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

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 Neuendorf, Puerto Rico in the memo line.

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

Stewardship . . .

(continued from page 6)

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.


~submitted by Kathy Angst

(Stewardship newsletter insert for May 2019, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=FNjRglvjvrbgJrMUShOLb2vLXa2CHwZ>)



Immanuel Lutheran Church - May 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am	2 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–12:30 pm Nat'l Day of Prayer Service @ 7:00 pm	3	4 Young Life Pancake Party (MH and outside) @ 7:00 am–12:00 noon RDCDS Gym @ 3:30–5:30 pm
5 Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am Altar Guild Mtg after Bible Class	6 Evening Bible Study 6:30–8:00 pm	7 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm All Boards @ 7:00 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	8 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	9 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–12:30 pm	10	11 (MH) Rental Graduation Party @ 9:00 am–4:00 pm
12 Mother's Day Usher Team #2 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	13	14 FoD's Work Day @ 10:00–1:30 pm (MH) Naomi Meeting @ 10:00 am Council 7:00 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	15 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	16 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–12:30 pm Hamburger Fry @ 11:00–1:00 pm	17 Set-up for Dance	18 FoD's Dance (MH) @ 4:00 – 9:00 pm
19 Usher Team #3 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	20 Evening Bible Study 6:30–8:00 pm	21 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	22 ECE Pre-K Promotions @ 9:30 am Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	23 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–12:30 pm	24 ECE Picnic @ 8:00–12:00 noon Last Day	25
26 Usher Team #4 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	27 Memorial Day Offices Closed ECE Closed 	28 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	29 Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	30 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–12:30 pm	31	

Serving Immanuel May 2019

	Sunday May 5	Sunday May 12	Sunday May 19	Sunday May 26
Elder	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.
Acolyte	Nikki B.	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.
Usher Team	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.
Media	Jackie A.	Karen E.	Melissa T.	Barbara S.
Audio	Ray T.	Max B.	Gerald O.	Ray T.
Altar Guild	Margaret B. & Melissa T.	Margaret B. & Melissa T.	Margaret B. & Melissa T.	Margaret B. & Melissa T.
Trustee	Ashlee F.	Ashlee F.	Ashlee F.	Ashlee F.

	Sunday June 2	Sunday June 9	Sunday June 16	Sunday June 23	Sunday June 30
Elder	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.
Acolyte	Molly H.	Nikki B.	Emily H.	Molly H.	Emily H.
Usher Team	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.
Media	Jackie A.	Karen E.	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Jackie A.
Audio	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.	Max B.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Sigrid R. & Carolyn B.	Sigrid R. & Carolyn B.	Sigrid R. & Carolyn B.	Sigrid R. & Carolyn B.	Sigrid R. & Carolyn B.
Trustee	Mike R.	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

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019

★ **PRAY FOR AMERICA** ★

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG #LOVE1ANOTHER

**National Day of Prayer
at Immanuel**

**Church Sanctuary
Open for Prayer
Noon-6:45 pm**

*Prayer Partners available
to pray with you or for you*

**Prayer Service
7:00 pm**