

Connections

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

Vol. 8, No. 7-8

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

June-July 2019

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage each other – and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

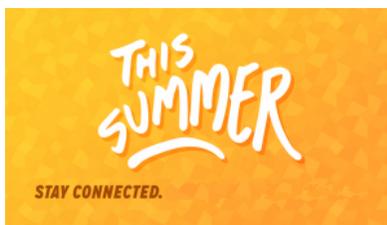
Summer is soon upon us and with it many wonderful opportunities to get together with family and friends for outings, vacations, and other fellowship activities. The writer to the Hebrews reminds us of the importance of getting together as the body of Christ. He is speaking of worship, the place where Jesus serves us the blessings of His suffering, death, and resurrection. These blessings include being given life together with God and each other for eternity.

In worship, God in Christ joins us together with Him, each other, angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven by means of the Gospel. Every Lord's Day Jesus brings us together as a community of faith so that we can love and care for each other as He loves and cares for us.

As you enjoy the many fellowship opportunities with family and friends this summer please do not give up meeting together as the body of Christ in the Divine Service. I pray that your view on this would be the same as that of Jesus who said, "Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" The Lord's Service to us at Immanuel takes place at 9:00 am every Sunday, where our Lord is always here to bring you His blessings of forgiveness, life, and peace.

As you know, there are lots of opportunities to get together throughout the summer. The fellowship that we share flows from the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed in the Lord's church.

Let's make sure to get together with Him, and each other, all summer long!



*~ In Christ,
Pastor Richard Gaub*



Same Traditions, New Fellowship

Juan Acuña, a transfer member from St. John Lutheran Church, has introduced some new Hispanic snacks. Oh, we know tamales, enchiladas, but what about conchas, marranitos, churros, and pupusas? Well, it seems we like them all. I don't remember when Juan brought these goodies, but those that attend the Sunday morning adult Bible class hurry to class, because if you're late, all the goodies are gone.

Juan was recently employed as a long distance 18-wheel truck driver. He was away from home during the week on routes to Washington, California, and other northern states. He has many stories to tell of his trips.

Juan comes from a family of 5 boys and one sister. His parents have passed away. His whole family joined St. John when Ray Bowles was Pastor there. The story Juan likes to tell is about their first Christmas in Houston. The St. John congregation, together with the teachers and Pastor, came up with a turkey and Christmas gifts for the Acuña family. When the family quieted down, their father declared that St. John would be their church home. All the Acuña children attended the St. John School and later went on to Lutheran High South. Years later, St. John Lutheran Church closed.

Juan found Immanuel Lutheran with his cell phone, and he recognized one of the pastors listed – Rev. Claudio Pérez. He visited

Immanuel, met with the Pastors and feels blessed to again worship in a Lutheran church.

Welcome, Juan! May the Lord bless you as you worship with us.

~Pastor Claudio Pérez

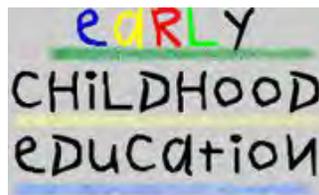


On behalf of the Call and Call Advisory Committees, thank you to all who completed their Pastoral Profile Surveys as well as to those who submitted Pastoral Nominations.

Over the coming weeks the committee will be reviewing all of the collected information and sharing that with our Mission & Ministry Facilitator, Rev. Jon Braunersreuther as well as the congregation prior to submitting our information to President Newman's office. Please watch the calendar for updates on when this will occur, and continue to keep all of those involved in the call process in your prayers.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2

~Lauren Neu



The 2019-2020 Academic School Calendar can be found online at

<http://www.immanuelhouston.com> and will be sent by e-mail on June 12 along with more information about Registration Paperwork Packet Day, which is July 25.

~Connie Meave

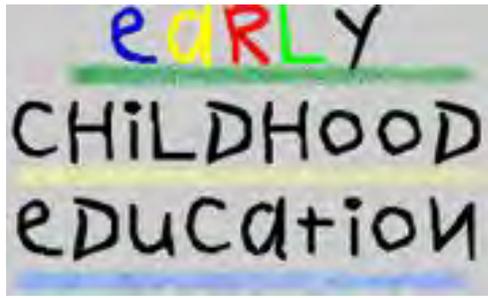
GRANDPARENTS fill the world with LOVE

GRANDPARENTS'
DAY



Thanks Grandma
and Grandpa





Ms. Winnie's Little Butterflies' Class used water colors to paint paper crosses for Easter. The design of the cross and the muted colors simulated stained glass quite nicely. The crosses are displayed in the announcement case outside Miertschin Hall.



Immanuel Lutheran Church observed the National Day of Prayer on the first Thursday in May. We opened our sanctuary to everyone for prayer on this occasion. The ECE children all participated and came to pray and to learn how to pray.



We welcomed several of our neighbors and some visitors who took advantage of the lovely music and setting to kneel and make their prayers known to our Lord. Some just came to enjoy the quiet time in prayer from their seats.

Special thanks to Pastor Gaub and Stephen Hernandez, Music Director, for the prayer service at 7:00 pm, which was truly a blessing to everyone who attended. And, to Xiomara Litinas, Holiday Flowers and Gifts, who provided the beautiful floral arrangement in honor of the National Day of Prayer.

~Winnie McNamara

Special Bible Study

Sundays June 30, July 7 & 14, 10:15 am

Singing the Faith: Living the Lutheran Heritage

What makes Lutheran hymnody so much different from others?

That Lutherans have for five hundred years been engaged in singing the faith must not be taken for granted. The foundation of singing the faith is to be found in Martin Luther himself, who declared very clearly: "Music I have always loved." Luther's love of music, and his welcoming attitude toward music in worship, made all the difference in laying a foundation that encouraged the composition and use of well-crafted musical repertoires—congregational hymns, choral music, organ and other instrumental music—from the sixteenth century to the present day. Such hymns, choral, and instrumental music enables us, like our Lutheran forebears, to proclaim the Gospel through singing the faith.

~Stephen Hernandez

Centennial Update



Centennial Celebration Music

Extra singers are being sought for the Centennial Divine Service to be held August 4 at 3:00 pm. I invite any former choir members (both current or former Immanuel members) to join us for the special rehearsals. Wednesdays, July 10, 17, and 31 at 7:00 pm.

The Bell Choir will hold rehearsals Thursdays, July 11, 18, and August 1 at 7:00 pm.

Dress rehearsal with ALL musicians (including Choir and Bell Choir), will be Saturday, August 3 at 9:00 am.

We are pleased to announce that former Immanuel Parish Musician Pamela Tamburello will be serving as guest organist for the Centennial Worship Service.

~Stephen Hernandez



Hamburger Days

Our monthly Hamburger Day is on summer vacation during June, July and August. We will return to the regular schedule on September 19th. Thank you so much to all our faithful supporters. You make it possible for the Naomi Willing Workers to send donations to several worthy causes each year. Some of those this year have been the Upbring Children Centers where abused children have a safe place to live and receive a Christian education, the Bethesda Lutheran Communities which care for people with disabilities and Lutheran High North for tuition assistance. See you in September.

~Martha McFarland



LAST CHANCE FOR DIRECTORY PHOTOS

On Sunday, July 14, after Church and Sunday School, we will take photographs of all our church organizations. It will be the last day for those who did not take an individual or family photograph in November to have a photograph made for the directory. Each family or individual who takes a picture this day will have an opportunity to purchase photos from the photographer. There is no purchase necessary to have your photo taken to place in the directory. Please consider coming to take your photo, we'd like to have a directory with everyone's photo.

Submit Your Recipes



100th ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

All Church and ECE families, we need your help to fill a cookbook with delicious recipes. Please submit your recipes to the church office or to Karen Evans, Cookbook Chairperson. Be sure to include your name and contact number in case we have a question. Please title your recipe and include your name as submitter. If you are an ECE family, please be sure to include the first names only of your child(ren) too. You can email your recipe to churchsecretary@immanuelhouston.org.

~Winnie McNamara

2019 Easter Celebration Wrap Up



The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day of blue skies, cool temperatures, and sunshine. Smiles and Happy Faces of over **100** children registered.



The **games** were enjoyed by all.

~Cathleen Chevallier



The **Salvation Station** had the prayer cross and goody bags. But the best gifts were the many crosses painted and decorated by the Sunday School children and teachers. Everyone was so excited to be able to pick their favorite to take home.



Children of all ages took out time to snap pictures with the **Easter Bunny!** Less than one year (right) to gracefully aged (left)





From siblings
(left)
to whole
families (right)



THANK YOU!
Thank you to all who volunteered,
donated money or cookies. Thank
you to all who attended the event.
Without everyone of you this event
would not have been possible.



Ready, Set, Go!
And the hunt was on.
The eggs were not so hard
to find but there were
plenty of eggs for all the
children.



A time of fellowship
was shared between
parents and children
alike.
May the Lord
Bless Everyone!



Sunday School

Mother's Day was an exciting time in Sunday School. We had 13 children in attendance, 4 visitors along with 2 youth. We made gifts for the moms along with cards. The children turned their handprint into a flower and then their names were added to a kitchen towel. The children were able to wrap their gifts before leaving. The topic for the day was "Love". We discussed showing love to our mothers just as God is Love and how God's love never leaves us.



Join us this summer as we study the 10 Commandments, June, July and August. God gave His people the 10 Commandments to show them the way He wants people to live. It is a guide on how to treat God and how to treat others. Many years later, Jesus became the only person to ever obey the 10 Commandments perfectly.

"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

Some disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. Many disciples were going to Jesus instead of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist answers: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven." (*John 3:27*).

John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. God provides everything we have in body and soul.

We are taught this in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in the *Small Catechism*.

In the First Article of the Creed, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe.

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant.

In so doing, He "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, "a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

But how easy is this for us to forget? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in life is because we have earned it?

(continued on page 9)

Stewardship . . .

(continued from page 8)

How easy is it for us to forget that all our skills – the abilities of our hands and minds, the ethic to work diligently, and the desire to improve – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said?

How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and that none of this is our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing.



But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven. These duties are not earned; they are given in response to what He has accomplished for us.

Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven.

Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

~submitted by Kathy Angst

(Stewardship newsletter insert for June 2019, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=33xv0xsHyL TCPxipAPDQR3YRLiFKXLGp>)

Voters’ Meeting and Election of Officers

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 2, after the Sunday School and Bible Class hour, around 11:45 am, for our annual Voters’ Meeting where we approved next year’s budget and elect officers.

Packets with all of the Officer and Board reports, the 2019-2020 Budget, and the Election slate are available in the Narthex Sundays May 26 and June 2, and in the Church Office during the week.

If you pick up your packet before the day of the meeting, please remember to bring it with you on Sunday June 2. There is a required minimum of members to conduct business, so please make every effort to attend.

Newsletter Contributors

- Editor.....Barbara Szalkowski
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-Pastor Claudio Pérez
-Mike Ramirez
- Graphic Design.....Matthew Szalkowski

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>

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>

Meet the Missionary

Rev. Joel Fritsche and Family

Serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic



Join Us!

Monday, June 3rd, 2019

Immanuel Miertschin Hall

Dinner at 5:30 pm

Menu: Tostadas, Rice, Beans and Dessert

RSVP by Friday, May 31st: Karen, Church Office 713-864-2651

Presentation at 7:00 pm

Rev. Fritsche and his family will give an update on his ministry in the Dominican Republic. All are invited to hear of the awesome work that the Spirit of God is accomplishing through Rev. Fritsche and through Immanuel's financial support of his ministry.



306 E. 15th St (Corner of E.15th St. and Arlington) 713-864-2651

Summer Family Fun Nights

Tuesday, July 16th: Pasta Salad
Thursday, July 18th: Stuffed Baked Potatoes
Dinner in Miertschin Hall: 5:30 pm
Activities and Fellowship: 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Join us for *Two Evenings of Fun for the Whole Family!*
Word, Song, Games and Crafts

“Faith In Action”

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20*



Please Join Us!

Centennial Celebration Service
August 4, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

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



Guest Homilist: Rev. Michael Newman
Texas District President - LCMS

Everyone Welcome!
Reception - Open House Follows
Information 713-864-2651
Immanuel.100.Houston@gmail.com

Serving Immanuel June-July 2019

	Sunday June 2	Sunday June 9	Sunday June 16	Sunday June 23	Sunday June 30
Elder	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.	Karen E.	Jackie A.
Audio	Stephen C.	Max B.	Ray T.	Stephen C.	Ray T.
Altar Guild	Sigrid R. & Carolyn B.				
Trustee	Mike R.				

	Sunday July 7	Sunday July 14	Sunday July 21	Sunday July 28
Elder	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.
Acolyte	Nikki B.	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.
Usher Team	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.
Media	Karen E.	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Jackie A.
Audio	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Antonette S. & Vivian G.			
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.

Serving Immanuel in August 2019

	Sunday August 4 (am)	Sunday August 4 (pm)	Sunday August 11	Sunday August 18	Sunday August 25
Elder	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.
Acolyte	Molly H.	<i>TBD</i>	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.
Usher Team	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.
Media	Karen E.	<i>No Media</i>	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Jackie A.
Audio	Max B.	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Max B.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Bob & Martha M.	Bob & Martha M.	Bob & Martha M.	Bob & Martha M.	Bob & Martha M.
Trustee	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church - June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Pentecost June 9 Wear Red!			May 30 @7:00 pm Ascension Day Service w/Communion		1
2 Usher Team #5 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am Voter's Meeting @ 11:45 am	3 Meet the Missionary Rev. Joel Fritsche & Family (MH) @ 7:00 pm Dinner @ 5:30 pm (Tostadas, Rice, Beans & Dessert) RSVP: Church Office	4 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm All Boards @ 7:00 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	5 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm	6 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	7	8
9 Pentecost Confirmation Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am BC/SS @ 10:15 am	10	11 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	12 Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm	13 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	14	15
16 Father's Day Usher Team #2 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	17 Evening Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm	18 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	19 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm	20 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	21	22
23 Usher Team #3 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	24 HIT's Theater Group Youth Room @ 9:00-5:00	25ECE Registration Paperwork Packet HIT's Theater Group FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS	26 HIT's Theater Group Men's Basketball @ 6:00-9:00 pm	27 HIT's Theater Group FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	28 HIT's Theater Group	29
30 Usher Team #4 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am BC/SS @ 10:15 am Social Ministry Door Offering						

Immanuel Lutheran Church - July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>NO Evening Bible Study</i>	2 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm All Boards @ 7:00 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	3 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am	4 Offices Closed Independence Day! 	5	6
7 <i>Usher Team #5</i> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	8	9 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @7:30-9:30 pm Council @ 7:00 pm	10 Choir @ 7:00 pm	11 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm Bells @ 7:00 pm	12	13
14 <i>Usher Team #1</i> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	15 <i>NO Evening Bible Study</i>	16 Family Fun Night Dinner 5:30 pm Activities 6:30-8 pm FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	17 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am Choir @ 7:00 pm	18 Family Fun Night Dinner 5:30 pm Activities 6:30-8 pm FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm Bells @ 7:00 pm	19	20
21 <i>Usher Team #2</i> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	22	23 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	24	25 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	26	27
28 <i>Usher Team #3</i> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	29	30 FoD's Work Day (MH) @ 10:00-1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30-9:30 pm	31 Choir @ 7:00 pm	Aug. 1 Bells @ 7:00 pm		Aug. 3 Choir & Bells & All Musicians @9:00 am



Immanuel Lutheran Church
1440 Cortlandt St
Houston, TX 77008

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TEXAS

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Love God ~ Care for Others



Summer Family Fun Nights

Tuesday, July 16: Pasta Salad

Thursday, July 18: Stuffed Baked Potatoes

Dinner in Miertschin Hall: 5:30 pm

Activities and Fellowship: 6:30 to 8:00 pm

(See enclosed flyer for details)