

Connections

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

Vol. 8, No. 11

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

October 2019

Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.



We continue our discussion about the Liturgy of the Church, detailing the nature and basis for each of the parts of the Liturgy.

Last month we examined the Confession and Absolution. This month we look at the Introit, Kyrie, and Salutation and Collect.

Hebrews 12 gives us a beautiful picture of what is happening in the Divine Service:

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Hebrews 12:22-24 (ESV)

It is our Lord Jesus Christ who speaks to us and gives us His Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. So, as Hebrews 12:28-29 states, *"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."*

Now that we have studied the Preparation for the Divine Service, we look at the Introit, or Entrance Hymn. This is the true beginning of the Liturgy and dates back to the 5th century. The Introit is composed of the Antiphon, the Psalm, the Gloria Patri, and then the Antiphon is repeated. The Antiphon is like the refrain of a song. It sets the tone and describes the theme of the Service. This is followed by the Psalm assigned for that particular Sunday. Following the Psalm, we speak or sing the Gloria Patri (Glory be to the Father). This is a clear confession of Who it is speaking to us – it is God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit! We then repeat the Antiphon or refrain of the Introit.

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Liturgy . . .

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You will notice that the Pastor approaches the Altar of God during the speaking or singing of the Introit. We are in the midst of Hebrews 12 as noted earlier in this article. We are in the presence of God!

Kyrie Eleison. Christe Eleison. Kyrie Eleison. (Greek)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

In singing the Kyrie, we are pleading with God for mercy. We are confessing that we are totally dependent upon God, we cannot survive without His mercy, and that He is the only source of life.

Following the Kyrie, we sing the Gloria in Excelsis (Glory to God in the Highest). In the Gloria we are singing the song of the Angels when Christ was born, and the confession of John the Baptist that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The conclusion of the Gloria confesses that Jesus alone is holy, He is the only Lord and worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. Yes, the Gloria in Excelsis is the perfect praise song!

The Divine Service continues with the Salutation and Collect. The Salutation is what the Pastor speaks to the congregation, ***The Lord be with you***, and the congregation responds, ***And with thy spirit***.

The Salutation is a gift! The Lord is with you! This is great and glorious news! The people respond, ***and with thy spirit***, which is saying, ***and may He be with you and in your mouth as you speak to us His Word***.

The Liturgy belongs to the Church and protects her, and the people and the pastor from the deceits of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh! Thanks be to God!

Is this just empty ritual? It need not be! The Liturgy puts into our ears and onto our lips the very Word of God. Anything can become 'empty ritual' as we read in Isaiah 29:13:

And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me ...

Thanks be to God that the Liturgy of the Church protects you and I from simply honoring God with our lips filled with empty words. Lord, have mercy upon us!

Bible Classes

I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider attending one or more of our Bible Class offerings. Hearing and studying the Word of God is privilege offered to each of us.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:6-7

✠ The Peace of the Lord be with you all. ✠

~Pastor Richard Gaub

Call Committee

The Call & Call Advisory Committees have received a list of candidates from District. At this time we are reviewing their information and remaining in steadfast prayer that God would lead us to the right Pastor for Immanuel. Please pray with and for us as we move through this process.

*And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. **Matthew 21:22***

~Lauren Neu



Hamburger Fry

Immanuel's Naomi Group has made the very difficult decision to discontinue the monthly Hamburger Fry Day. Our numbers have dwindled and sadly we cannot continue. We want to sincerely thank all the workers, Immanuel members, our neighbors and members from our sister churches for coming to support us and our charity donations for so many years.

We love you all and will miss the Christian fellowship it provided.

~Sincerely,
The Naomi Willing Workers

[Editor's Note: At press time, another group is considering taking over the Hamburger Fry, but no decision had yet been made.]



October Events

Volleyball games

Tues. Oct. 8, 6:00 pm Thu. Oct. 17, 6:00 pm

Football game

Fri. Oct. 25, 7:00 pm **Homecoming**

Lion Preview Day - 7th and 8th graders

Wed. Oct. 16, 12:30-3:00 pm

Fall Comedy "12 Incompetent Jurors"

Sat. Oct. 19, 7:00 pm

Sun. Oct. 20, 3:00 pm



Adults \$10, Students & Children Free
Reserve seats (optional) by email
paul.stuenkel@lhnions.org

Middle School Choir Festival

Wed. Oct. 30, 6:30 concert

~Lynn Eickemeyer



Reformation Sunday will be observed on October 27. Don't forget to wear **red**.

Sunday School



Sunday School always has a spot for you. We have chairs to fill and Good News of Jesus to share.

School has begun and Sunday School attendance has become more consistent. Talk has begun and plans are being worked on to make some changes in the Sunday School department. Our prayer is to open a class to include children 1 and 2 years old. One class would be ages 1-5 and the other class would be 6-12. More information to come.

We would love your support in our 3rd Annual **LOVE** Project, "Operation Christmas Child". Details on the flyer included in this issue of *Connections*.



We are **NUTS** about Jesus and you! Join us this Fall, Sunday mornings downstairs at 10:15 am. Friends are always welcome!

"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

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words:

"We are all beggars. This is true."

And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free. Ironic, isn't it? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything – forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace.

On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars. But we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

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“JOY”

RALLY DAY



“JOY”





Activities were enjoyed by friends of all ages. A delicious meal followed the hour of fun. Thank you to everyone who attended. Thank you to those who helped prepare for the joyous event. Thank you!



“JOY”

“JOY”

Rally Day was a day of devotion, singing and fellowship together.



“JOY”











Stewardship . . .

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So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God’s beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

~submitted by Kathy Angst

(Stewardship newsletter insert for October 2019, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=eMz5oQC1uNU7COI678soUMq8bl7aD0jw>)

Mission Report The Fritsche Family: A La Republica Dominicana

[Excerpt, July-August-September 2019 newsletter]



We arrived back [from Home Service] in the DR just in time for our regional missionary conference, several days of worship, study, fellowship and planning with all of our Latin America, Caribbean and Spain missionaries. It’s so great to have that time together each year. But we were still itching to get home!

After two months away from church and seminary, there was no easing back in. We arrived home August 12. One week later we were expecting six new seminary students (some with families) to arrive for the new school year. Thankfully, faithful colleagues had been laboring in our absence, fixing dorms and apartments and arranging for visas.

I had to jump right into confirming a week-long orientation for students, making sure we cover all the bases. Each year we learn a bit more, especially from our mistakes, praying that we improve and serve our students better.

Orientation was excellent. Students began orientation week with a workshop on Lutheran education by “LeadAChild,” an organization that supports Lutheran schools and teachers throughout Latin America and other parts of the world.

We spent a day presenting the academic program, clarifying issues of student life and addressing culture shock issues. Deaconess Danelle led a workshop on mercy and gave a tour of our group home and its six residents who have disabilities. Our students will interact with these folks on a daily basis, so it was important for them to have an opportunity to meet them. We gave students an overview of the church planting work going on here in the DR, then took them to the communities of our missions for visits. They are being formed to be evangelists, after all. We concluded the week with our opening service on Sunday afternoon. Stay tuned for updates on students, classes and field work in our next newsletter.

~Pastor Joel Fritsche

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Mission Report . . .

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Updates from the Missionary Wife

It has been a busy time since being back. We have welcomed new seminary students, added AC to our church, began classes, and reorganized our classroom.

I began deaconess studies by distance at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. It can be intimidating, but I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow.

Viktor continues to practice driving and complete his driving course online. He has jumped into classes with Wittenberg Academy with Chemistry, Latin, Theology, History, and Literature.

Sergei is off and running with his first experience with Wittenberg Academy. He is working on Grammar, Latin, and Math this first trimester. He loves practicing on the new guitar he got for his birthday. He is excited to work with Josué on music for church. Josué joins us from Chile and works very well with Sergei.

Andrei was thrilled to finally be able to do the water slides at our conference in Punta Cana. We are so happy that he is growing so well. He is very enthused to also begin some online classes with Scholē Academy. He is taking Grammar, Latin, and Writing and loves his teachers. Blessings until we meet again!

~Clarion Fritsche

Support Our Sponsored Missionary 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.”

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Mission Report . . .

Support . . .

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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.

You can read the full July-August-September 2019 newsletter issue at <https://mailchi.mp/0ed42cd238e3/3bek9lzl0w-2954933?fbclid=IwAR35ekktPCDK7bT1J9jzraI3hyY-Ei1E--NOOAWyZYojE2CcEj3qS1oIJ0c> and also access it and other news and photographs on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/lcmsfritsche/>

Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM) Foro News

[Excerpt, July-September 2019 newsletter]

Three families in the Pueblo Nuevo neighborhood tragically lost their homes to an electrical fire in the wee hours of the morning on Friday, August 30. One family also lost their livelihood, a restaurant with an open-air patio that was frequently used for Bible study and women’s fellowship events. You may even recognize the street corner pictured *(below)*.



While we join with the affected individuals in mourning what was consumed by the flames, we also rejoice with them that everyone got out safely. Moreover, we thank God for the opportunity to be Christ’s hands and feet of mercy to those within the household of faith. Missionaries were on the ground within hours of the blaze to provide spiritual care and coordinate donations of material goods. The church itself became a hub for friends and neighbors as they took respite from the sun; sorted clothes, food, and linens; and shared a meal.

Please continue to lift this situation up in your prayers as the rebuilding process will take months or even years.

~Erin Mackenzie

You can sign up to receive Erin’s quarterly e-newsletter by emailing her at erin.mackenzie@lcms.org

Newsletter Contributors

- Editor.....Barbara Szalkowski
- Contributors.....Jackie Anderson
-Kathy Angst
-Cathleen Chevallier
-Lynn Eickemeyer
-Karen Evans
-Clarion Fritsche
-Pastor Joel Fritsche
-Pastor Richard Gaub
-Denise Goehring
-Erin Mackenzie
-Martha McFarland
-Lauren Neu
- Centennial photos.....Winnie McNamara
- Rally Day photos.....Cathleen Chevallier
- Graphic Design.....Matthew Szalkowski



3rd 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 (Sponsorship Envelope) or two



Put the amount or more in the envelope(s) and bring back by

Sunday, October 20th.

All items will be purchased and separated into as many shoeboxes as possible.

Any questions, contact Cathleen Chevallier, (936) 499-5531



October 5, 2019 9:00 am-5:00 pm
14th Annual Houston Heights
Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, October 5, 2019
Marmion Park Houston, TX
1802 Heights Blvd.
Houston, TX US 77008

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Education will have a booth at this event. **To volunteer to man the booth, please contact Winnie McNamara or Melissa Theis. We will need a volunteer team to set up a 10x10 cover, table and two chairs at Noon with teardown at 5:30 pm.** For more information, please call the Church Office, (713) 864-2651.

So, come on out and meet and greet some of our Heights neighbors! This event is a family event for children and adults. It is not a race; it is self-paced and there is a short course of 3 miles and a long course of 15 along with refreshments and prizes at the finish line. For registration information, please see <http://houstonheights.org> or call (713) 861-4002, Option B.

Serving Immanuel October~November 2019

	Sunday October 6	Sunday October 13	Sunday October 20	Sunday October 27
Elder	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.
Acolyte	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.
Usher Team	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.
Media	Melissa T.	Jackie A.	Barbara S.	<i>No Media</i>
Audio	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.
Altar Guild	Maria O. & Leticia L.			
Trustee	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.

	Sunday November 3	Sunday November 10	Sunday November 17	Sunday November 24	Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday November 27
Elder	Max B.				
Acolyte	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.
Usher Team	#3 Lonnie A.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.
Media	<i>No Media</i>	Karen E.	Melissa T.	Jackie A.	<i>No Media</i>
Audio	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.
Altar Guild	Mary O. & Vivian G.				
Trustee	Max B.				

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church - October 2019 REVISED



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 All Boards @ 7:00 pm	2 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm	3 Bingo @ 1:00-3:00 pm	4 Gym Scottish Dancers @ 7:00-10:00 pm	5 ILC Booth @Heights Bike Rally, Marmion Park, Noon-5:00 pm Basketball for All-Gym @ 9:00-10:00 pm Scottish Dancers @ 7:00-10:00 pm Gym & MH
6 Usher Team #4 LWML Sunday Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	7 Young Life (Gym) @ 6:00-9:00 pm Evening Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm	8 Naomi Meeting @ 10:00 am Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm	9 Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm	10 Choir 7:00 pm Bells 8:00 pm	11	12 FoD's Dance In Miertschin Hall @ 6:00-9:00 pm
13 Usher Team #5 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	14 Columbus Day Offices & ECE Closed  Young Life (Gym) @ 6:00-9:00 pm	15 Newsletter Deadline Scottish Dancers @ 7:30 - 9:30 pm	16 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm	17 Choir 7:00 pm Bells 8:00 pm	18	19 Basketball for All @ 9:00-10:00 pm
20 Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	21 Evening Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm Young Life (Gym) @ 6:00-9:00 pm	22 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30 - 9:30 pm	23 Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm	24 Choir 7:00 pm Bells 8:00 pm	25	26
27 Usher Team #2 Reformation Sunday Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	28 Young Life (Gym) @ 6:00-9:00 pm	29 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm	30 Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm	31 Halloween  Choir 7:00 pm Bells 8:00 pm		Sunday Nov. 3 Daylight Savings Time ENDS. Fall Back One (1) Hour



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

Adults – Get Into the Word!

Bible Class • *Colossians*

Sundays • 10:15 am

Weekday Ladies Bible Study • *Angels*

1st & 3rd Wednesdays • 10:00 am

Weeknight Bible Study • *Dying to Forgive*

1st & 3rd Mondays • 6:30 pm