

# Connections

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

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<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

November 2019

## The Festival of the Reformation and All Saints' Day Back to Back Celebrations of the Christian Faith



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

As I write this newsletter article, we are in the midst of our preparations for the Festivals of the Reformation and All Saints' Day. As a congregation, we will have celebrated Reformation on Sunday, October 27 (transferred from October 31) and the celebration of All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 3 (transferred from November 1).



Martin Luther illustrated the heart of Reformation theology in the Luther seal and its explanation as quoted below:

*The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness."*

*Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature - i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. "For the just shall live by faith," – by faith in the Savior.*

*But this heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits.*

*This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-colored ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed.*

*(continued on page 2)*

# Celebrations . . .

*(continued from page 1)*

*And around this ground base is a golden ring,  
to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless,  
and more precious than all joys and treasures,  
since gold is the best and most precious metal.  
Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto  
eternal life.*

*Amen.*

*Martin Luther*

On the cool night of October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed a printed sheet of his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. The next day, All Saints Day, hundreds of people would come to the church, see his list, and find the truth of God's free forgiveness. Luther had no idea that his hammering would get the attention of people around the world. His goal was to reform the church from within.

Yet Martin Luther, a Catholic monk with a deep desire and need for God's forgiveness went on to stand up to both emperor and pope in the name of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whose free forgiveness is the keystone of the Church.

On Reformation Day we celebrate the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – the forgiveness of our sins by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

On the Festival of All Saints we remember the saints who have gone on before us, from the earliest Christian martyrs such as St. Stephen (Acts 6-7) to the more than 400,000 faithful who had been martyred in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century under Roman persecution, to the countless unborn children who have been murdered for 'convenience' or 'choice', to our family

members and friends who have died in the One True Faith.

*Behold a host, arrayed in white,  
Like thousand snow-clad mountains bright!  
With palms they stand; Who is this band  
Before the throne of light?  
These are the saints of glorious fame,  
Who from the great affliction came  
And in the flood of Jesus' blood are cleansed  
from guilt and shame.  
They now serve God both day and night;  
They sing their songs in endless light.  
Their anthems ring as they all sing with angels  
shining bright. (LSB 676.1)*

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!  
*(2 Cor 9:15)*

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

✠ *Pastor Gaub*



## Advent Preview

The season of Advent begins Sunday, December 1. There will be midweek Advent services Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 7:00 pm. The theme for these midweek services will be "Behold, Your King is Coming to You - Who? How? Why?"

A meal prepared by volunteers will precede each service 5:30-6:30 pm.

We will also have special services on Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm and Christmas Day at 9:00 am. Holy Communion will be celebrated in both services. We hope to see you all as we prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior.



# Happy Thanksgiving

From the Sunday School Dept.

Sunday School is a fun time learning about Jesus; however, during the holidays the fun goes to another level. Decorating our room, making gifts for those in need, doing crafts for the season is a joyful time. I know the holidays are a time for family, so we ask that you put your Immanuel family in your holiday plans. Join us each and every weekend as we move to give thanks to our Lord at Thanksgiving and prepare ourselves for Jesus' Birthday at Christmas.



Thank you for your support of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sunday School "Love" Project benefitting the Operation Christmas Child Program. Number of shoeboxes sent will be shared in December. Your support means so much to the Sunday department. We Love You All!

***SAVE THE DATE!*** Sunday, January 12, 2020! This will be the Sunday that children 1 and 2 years old will be welcome to join Sunday School. Two classes will be offered: Ages 1-5 years old and Ages 6-12 years old. More information to come.

Join us, 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

St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God's sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel's God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

*~submitted by Kathy Angst*

*(Stewardship newsletter insert for November 2019, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=RGwx4ARZX5SUUuvU04eW5MHdAMYAnXyO>)*



Immanuel welcomes Juan Acuna to Usher Team #5. May we be a blessing to him and his service be a blessing to us.

There is always a need for permanent or substitute Ushers. If you are interested in serving, please contact Mike Rivera, Head Usher.

### Newsletter Contributors

Editor.....Barbara Szalkowski  
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# Heights Bike Rally After-Party

Marmion Park – October 5, 2019

The Evangelism Committee sponsored a booth at the After-Party of the Houston Heights Association Bike Rally and Scavenger Hunt. Earlier in the day, there were short bike tracks for families and longer rides for adults. We had an opportunity to meet many of our Heights neighbors and to introduce ourselves. We shared information about our church and our early childhood program. We invited everyone we met to our upcoming live nativity. We distributed Bibles. There were snacks for young and old alike. It was a very friendly crowd!

Immanuel had the best door prize! The children who won the basket were kind enough to come and thank us.

Thank you to all who participated in this Evangelism Event: Karen Evans, Kelli Evans, Toyia Evans, Lauren Neu, Gerald Owen, Barbara Szalkowski and Melissa Theis.



This was our awesome door prize that was full of great kid entertainment!



~Winnie McNamara - Evangelism Chairperson

## Call Committee

The Call and Call Advisory Committees are in the process of conducting interviews with our Pastoral Candidates. Please keep the committees in your prayers as we go through this process as well as our candidates, who will prayerfully be considering a call to Immanuel.

*And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.*

*Isaiah 30:21*

~Lauren Neu



### November Events

#### Football Game

Friday, Nov. 8, 7:00 pm

#### Basketball Games

Friday, Nov. 8, 4:30 pm • JV & Varsity girls

Friday, Nov. 15, 7:00 pm • Varsity boys

Friday, Nov. 15, 7:00 pm • Varsity girls

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7:00 pm • Varsity boys

#### Soccer Games

Friday Nov. 1, 5:00 pm • JV boys

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 5:00 pm • JV boys

Thursday, Nov. 7, 5:00 pm • Varsity boys

Friday, Nov. 8, 5:00 pm • JV boys

Monday, Nov. 11, 5:00 pm • JV boys

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:00 pm • Varsity boys

Thursday, Nov. 14, 5:00 pm • Varsity girls

~Lynn Eickemeyer

## Save the Date! Annual Live Nativity



Join us on Saturday, December 14, at 6:00 pm on the grounds for Immanuel's celebration of Christmas with a live nativity and carols. This is a wonderful event for the whole family – bring your friends and neighbors!



## Annual Christmas Concerts

The Houston Lutheran Chorale will present their 2019 Christmas concert, "Wake, Awake," Friday-Sunday, December 6-8. The concert will include J.S. Bach's Cantata 140 "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" plus contemporary Christmas choral arrangements by Dan Forrest, John Rutter, and others focusing on the nativity and the wondrous mystery of "God in flesh."

For details, see the information posted at the church, the HLC website, <http://www.hlc-tx.org>, or Chorale member, Barbara Szalkowski.

# The Texas District Is Multiplying Churches!

[Posted October 16, 2019 on the Texas District website <https://txlcms.org/the-texas-district-is-multiplying-churches/>]



Earlier this fall, all four churches of the ACTS Network came together for worship at Brazos Hall in downtown Austin. With united voice, they praised God for His plan and purpose, recognizing that both insiders and outsiders are “fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Eph. 3:6).

At this one-of-a-kind celebration, it was announced that ACTS Church Lakeway had made *Outreach* magazine’s list of the top 100 “Reproducing Churches in America.” ACTS had been recommended for this honor by the leaders of Exponential, a national church-planting organization ([exponential.org](http://exponential.org)). ACTS was being honored for their rapid reproduction of churches in the greater Austin area and its commitment to multiply kingdom impact.

For more than ten years, *Outreach* magazine has been publishing a list of the country’s fastest-growing and largest churches. This year, for the first time, *Outreach* is recognizing

reproducing churches: “Congregations that have limited their growth at their home site because they are intentionally investing in new churches.” (See all three lists at [outreach100.com](http://outreach100.com))

It is sometimes assumed that a church has to get big before it begins reproducing. This hypothesis does not line up with the ACTS experience. ACTS Church Lakeway, for instance, records a worship attendance of about 150 per weekend. Yet the members of ACTS have given themselves away, again and again, believing that more people in more areas will be reached with the Gospel through intentional disciple-making and church planting.

We are grateful that, in partnership with the Exponential organization, Outreach is now challenging churches “to consider their legacy—not just building their local church, but expanding the kingdom in other parts of their city, their region, the world.” Congregations of all sizes can make the strategic commitment to reproduce and to multiply their impact!

How might you be a part of this movement? ACTS is only one among many congregations and networks that share the district-wide goal of seeing 100 new Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod churches planted in Texas over the next decade; and 50 new local evangelistic outreach ministries started.

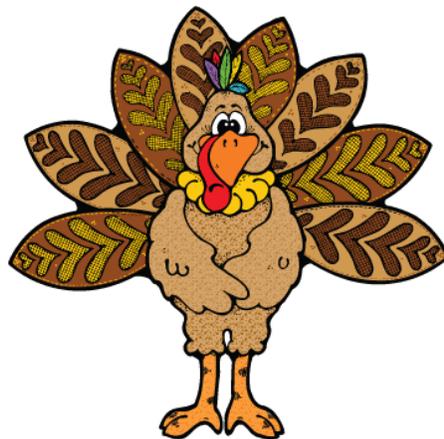
Please feel free to contact me or any one of our Texas District mission and ministry facilitators to explore the power of multiplication through the Gospel.

~Rev. Pete Mueller  
Mission Strategist, Area C

# *Annual Thanksgiving* *Share-A-Meal*

Help Immanuel Provide Groceries and  
Various Essential Items  
for 6 Families in Need  
(Congregation, ECE and Community)

## Pluck the TURKEY!



Pluck feather(s) and bring those items and  
more, if you wish, back to church or the church  
office before **Sunday 11/17**.

All items will be separated and packed for pickup.  
Any questions, contact Cathleen Chevallier 936-499-5531

# Serving Immanuel November 2019

	<b>Sunday November 3</b>	<b>Sunday November 10</b>	<b>Sunday November 17</b>	<b>Sunday November 24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday November 27</b>
<b>Elder</b>	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.	Max B.
<b>Acolyte</b>	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.
<b>Usher Team</b>	#3 Lonnie A.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.
<b>Media</b>	<i>No Media</i>	Karen E.	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	<i>No Media</i>
<b>Audio</b>	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary O. & Vivian G.	Mary O. & Vivian G.	Mary O. & Vivian G.	Mary O. & Vivian G.	Mary O. & Vivian G.
<b>Trustee</b>	Max B.	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 December 2019

	<b>Sunday December 1</b>	<b>Wednesday December 4</b>	<b>Sunday December 8</b>	<b>Wednesday December 11</b>	<b>Sunday December 15</b>
<b>Elder</b>	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.
<b>Acolyte</b>	Molly H.	<i>Elder</i>	Emily H.	<i>Elder</i>	Nikki B.
<b>Usher Team</b>	#3 Lonnie A.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.
<b>Media</b>	Jackie A.	<i>No Media</i>	Karen E.	<i>No Media</i>	Melissa T.
<b>Audio</b>	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Margaret B. & Melissa T.		Margaret B. & Melissa T.		Margaret B. & Melissa T.
<b>Trustee</b>	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.

	<b>Wednesday December 18</b>	<b>Sunday December 22</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Tuesday December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Day Wednesday December 25</b>	<b>Sunday December 29</b>
<b>Elder</b>	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.
<b>Acolyte</b>	<i>Elder</i>	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.
<b>Usher Team</b>	#3 Lonnie A.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.
<b>Media</b>	<i>No Media</i>	Jackie A.	<i>No Media</i>	<i>No Media</i>	Barbara S.
<b>Audio</b>	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.
<b>Altar Guild</b>		Margaret B. & Melissa T.	Margaret B. & Melissa T.	Margaret B. & Melissa T.	Margaret B. & Melissa T.
<b>Trustee</b>	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 - November 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday Nov. 3</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time ENDS</b>	<b>Fall Back One (1) Hour</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Usher Team #3</b> All Saints Sunday Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class/Sunday School @ 10:15 am	<b>4</b> Young Life (Gym) @ 6:00-9:00 pm <b>NO Evening Bible Study</b>	<b>5</b> All Boards @ 7:00 pm  Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm	<b>6</b> Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am  Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm	<b>7</b> Bingo @ 1:00-3:00 pm  Choir @ 7:00 pm Bells @ 8:00 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Usher Team #4</b> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	<b>11</b>  Young Life (Gym) @ 6:00-9:00 pm Evening Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm	<b>12</b> Church Council @ 7:00 pm Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm	<b>13</b>  Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm	<b>14</b>  Choir @ 7:00 pm Bells @ 8:00 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> FoD's Thanksgiving Feast and Talent Show @ 6:00-9:00 pm (Set-Up all day)
<b>17 Usher Team #5</b> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	<b>18</b> Evening Bible Study 6:30-8:00 pm Young Life (Gym) @ 6:00-9:00 pm	<b>19</b>  Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm	<b>20</b> Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am  Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm	<b>21</b>  Choir @ 7:00 pm Bells @ 8:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Usher Team #1</b> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am Voter's Meeting @ 11:45 am	<b>25</b>  Young Life (Gym) @ 6:00-9:00 pm	<b>26</b>  Scottish Dancers @ 7:30-9:30 pm	<b>27</b> Offices Closed  Men's Basketball @ 6:30-9:00 pm Usher Team #2 Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service @ 7:00 pm	<b>28</b> Offices Closed Thanksgiving Day! 	<b>29</b> Offices Closed	<b>30</b>



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
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Houston, TX 77008

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NORTH HOUSTON,  
TEXAS

**Return Service Requested**

To the Family of:

*Love God ~ Care for Others*

**Thanksgiving Eve  
Service w/Communion**

**Wednesday**

**November 27**

**7:00 pm**

Give thanks to  
*the Lord*  
and proclaim his  
**greatness.**

Let the whole world  
know *what he has done.*

I Chronicles 16:8

*Give Thanks*