

# Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 10, No. 6

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

May 2021

## What About ... Pastors?



Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

As the Elders/Call Committee begins meeting again to discuss and prepare for calling a Pastor to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church, I thought it would be helpful for us all to review what it means to be given the gift of the Office of the Holy Ministry. For that is exactly what it is ... a gift from God! Please read following article, another from the "What About" series by Dr. A. L. Barry, President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, ©2001. The entire series can be found at <https://steadfastlutherans.org/whatabout/>. If you have any questions, please let me know and we can discuss it in Bible Class.

*~In Christ,  
Pastor Richard Gaub*

## Why does God give us pastors?

When we look at our lives and measure them according to the holiness and righteousness of the Lord God Almighty we are moved to say, "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner." We receive forgiveness of sins, and become righteous before God, by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ lived, suffered, died and rose again for us, and that for His sake our sins are forgiven, and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.

But how do we receive this faith? In order to obtain such faith, God instituted the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. It is through the Word and Sacraments that the Holy Spirit produces faith, where and when it pleases Him, in those who hear the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

Pastors accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage. They serve us with Christ's Word and Sacraments, through which the Holy Spirit gives us forgiveness, life and salvation.

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## So Many Blessings

Two members asked, "Why are you not writing in Immanuel's newsletter?" (I hope there may be more than 2.) The truth is, I forget the deadline to hand in my article. But not this month!

First, the New Paraments. The new paraments for Lent arrived and received a blessing during one of the midweek Wednesday evening services. They are beautiful! The pulpit parament for Lent has a pelican flapping her wings before her chicks which ruffled the feathers of some viewers initially. Pastor Gaub explained that the pelican feeds her chicks with her own blood when there is no food available, in a self-sacrifice of love much like that of our Savior for us. He gave His body and blood so that we might have life.

Second, this Easter season, my wife and I received Easter greeting cards and I thank you for the thoughts they brought. The Sunday School also sent one which puzzled me. The Easter cross was colored neatly, no coloring outside the lines and all the colors were appropriately matched. When I saw the signatures, I noticed that the names listed were mostly our older children, the younger Hyslop children were missing as they have relocated out of Houston. I pray that the Lord continues to bless all of our Sunday School students and teachers!

Third, is my thanks to Pastor Gaub and Stephen for our beautiful and meaningful Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter services. Hearing the handbell choir play once again was GREAT!

*~Pastor Perez*

## Worship Notes

### Looking Forward to Sunday Morning

In the back of each Sunday's worship folder is a new section, "Looking Forward to Sunday Morning," which gives the theme, readings, and hymns for the following Sunday, and other items that might enhance your devotions during the week.

### Return to Traditional Communion Distribution

Communicants now have the option to receive the Sacrament while kneeling at the rail in addition to the continuous distribution (convention style) that has been the practice during the pandemic. Those wishing to kneel will be served first, then those preferring continuous distribution will be served.

### Special Services in May

Thursday May 6, 7:00 pm  
National Day of Prayer Service

Thursday May 13, 7:00 pm  
Ascension Divine Service

# Mission Report

## The Fritsche Family: A La Republica Dominicana



Pastor Joel Fritsche and family will be back in the United States for Home Service this summer, which usually consists of visiting and reconnecting with partner congregations, as well spending time with family in the states.

As part of their time stateside, the Fritsches will be with us at Immanuel on Sunday morning, May 30, with Pastor Fritsche preaching and giving a presentation on their ministry to the Adult Bible class.

A lunch following the Bible Class/Sunday School hour is also being planned. If you would like to help with the lunch, please contact Winnie McNamara.

## Support The Fritsche Family Ministry in the Dominican Republic

### Seminary Support

Donate online: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/seminary-support>.

By mail, make a check payable to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 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

### Support the Fritsche’s ministry

Send a tax-deductible gift to either:  
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.”

Donate online on the LCMS website at <http://www.lcms.org/fritsche> or call (888) 930-4438.



*Concordia the Reformer Seminary  
(Seminario Concordia el Reformador)*

# What about Pastors...

(continued from page 1)

Therefore, we believe, teach and confess that “when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command . . . this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself” (*Small Catechism*).

## How does God give us pastors?

The pastoral office is a gift that God has given to the church, as Paul says, “When he ascended on high he gave gifts to men” (*Eph. 4:8, 11-12*). Paul enumerates pastors and teachers among the gifts belonging to the church, and he adds that they are given for the work of ministry and for building up the body of Christ. Therefore, the right of electing and ordaining ministers is a duty and responsibility of the church.

Through a congregation’s call, God places a man to be the shepherd of that congregation. “Our churches teach that nobody shall publicly preach or teach or administer the sacraments without a regular call” (*Augsburg Confession, Article XIV*). Only those who are called and ordained to the pastoral office may exercise it publicly. Although the Holy Scriptures make it clear that all the baptized are priests, called to offer God sacrifices of thanks and praise (*1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10*), it also teaches that in the church there is an office to teach, feed, guide and rule, which Christians, by virtue of their general calling as Christians, do not possess (*1 Cor. 12:29; Rom. 10:15; 1 Tim. 5:17; James 3:1*). While all Christians through Baptism are made part of God’s royal priesthood, not all Christians are ministers.

When a man receives and accepts his first call to serve as a pastor, he is then ordained. Ordination is a confirmation of a man’s call into the ministry of the church and is the historic and apostolic rite by which, through Word and prayer, a man is set apart for service to Christ and His church as a pastor. During his ordination, he is also installed into the pastoral office of the congregation that calls him. In the future, if he accepts other calls to serve, he will be installed, but not ordained again.

## How are pastors described?

The word “pastor” comes from the Latin word for “shepherd.” Shepherding is a predominant picture in the Bible for both the work of Christ and the work of our pastors (*cf. Ps. 23; Ezek. 34; Eph. 4:11; 1 Peter 5:2-3*). The Scriptures indicate that the Holy Spirit appoints men to shepherd God’s people (*Acts 20:28*).

Pastors are also referred to frequently in the Bible as “ministers,” a word that literally means “slave” (*Acts 26:16; Rom. 15:16; Eph. 3:7; 1 Tim. 4:6*). In 2 Cor. 4:5 Paul describes pastors this way: “We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your slaves, for Jesus’ sake.” Pastors model their ministry on the life and work of the Lord Jesus Christ who did not come to be served, but to serve. The pastoral office is an office of loving, caring service to the people of God, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Oversight” is another less frequently used term that describes the pastor’s work. Pastoral oversight is the spiritual duty of rebuking and warning Christ’s people when they fall into sin, feeding and caring for them with the Gospel, and guarding and defending them from false

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# What about Pastors...

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teachers and their false teachings. Pastoral oversight is not to be confused with institutional management or leadership, like a CEO type of position.

Our Lutheran Confessions refer to the pastoral office as the "Preaching Office," to which men are called and ordained. We also speak of the office of the holy ministry. The ministry is holy not because of the men who are in it, but because of the One who established it. It is holy because of what the Lord is doing for His people through the work of His pastors.

## What does God expect of pastors?

Pastors do not "represent their own persons but the person of Christ, because of the Church's call, as Christ testifies (*Luke 10:16*) 'He who hears you, hears me.' When they offer the Word of Christ or the sacraments, they do so in Christ's place and stead" (*Apology VII/VIII.28*).

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Tim. 3:2-4 that a pastor is to be "above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect." In 1 Tim. 3:6 we read that a pastor is not to be "a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil." In Titus 1:9 it is said that pastors "must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can

encourage others by sound doctrine, and refute it."

Although some Protestant churches ordain women to the pastoral office, this is a 20th-century innovation. For more than 1,900 years, there has been nearly unanimous faithfulness to the Word of God, given through the Apostle Paul, that women are not to serve as pastors (*see 1 Cor. 14:33-35, 37; 1 Tim. 2:11-12; 1 Tim. 3:1-2 and Titus 1:5-6*).

Because it is God who places men into the pastoral office, through the congregation, only God, through the congregation, can properly remove a man from the pastoral office. Pastors are forgiven sinners, as are all baptized children of God.

Thus, we do not expect perfection of our pastors, any more than pastors would expect congregations to be perfect. The awesome forgiveness of Jesus Christ sustains us all. A "hire and fire" attitude toward our pastors must not enter into our thinking.

Removing a man from the pastoral office must be based only on clear, Biblical, criteria; namely, persistent adherence to false doctrine, a scandalous life, or willful neglect of duty.

## What are the duties and commitments of pastors?

Our pastors preach, catechize, administer the Sacraments, hear confession from penitent sinners, and comfort the sick. The church knows that even the most faithful pastor can never do enough of these things, but the

*(continued on page 11)*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school has continued to be a true joy during these times of uncertainty. On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, our lesson focused on “**The Resurrection, Jesus is Alive!**”. In order to share the glorious Easter story, the children made themselves each their own visual aids. From the littlest of 2 to 10 years old, each colored and glued their plates then attached them together. The children learned that Jesus rose from the dead so everyone who believes will have forgiveness and eternal life with Him.



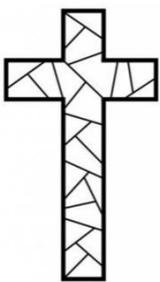
Jesus' Death on the Cross



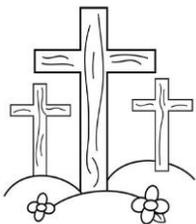
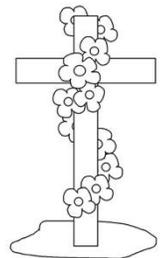
Alleluia! Easter Morning, the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty.  
**He is Risen!**



He was laid in a tomb that was closed with a stone.



On Palm Sunday there wasn't a formal Sunday School class; however, the day was blessed with 17 children, young adults and adults gathering together in the youth room to make Easter cards. The cards were for 32 shut-ins and senior citizens of Immanuel. We were so busy making cards that we didn't think to take pictures. The parents along with their children colored and put stickers on. The youth colored and added their creative touches to cards. We were even able to get a few young adults to help. We tried to get as many names as possible on the cards.



**A Huge Thank You to all who helped the Sunday school share a little Easter Joy!**

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

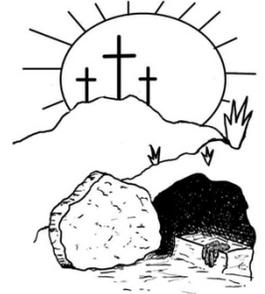
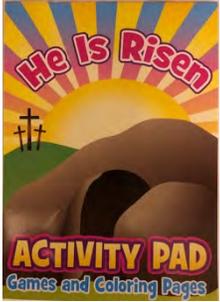
~*Cathleen Chevallier*  
Sunday School Superintendent

# Easter 2021 at Immanuel

## Sharing Easter Joy in Different Ways

### #1 Sharing Easter with Children by Mail Outside of the Church

To continue the Sunday school efforts of reaching out to children on our membership, there were children of 4 families who received an Easter package in the mail. Each of the packages included an Easter Lesson for the whole family, Easter crafts, coloring pages, an Easter activity booklet per child and additional Christian resources along with an Easter wish. These families were sent separate Easter cards with an invitation to join us on Easter Sunday.



### #2 Sharing the Easter Joy with the Children of Immanuel Sunday School

Easter backpacks were made for each of the children in Sunday school from the Little Lambs up to the Youth. Each bag contained filled plastic eggs, two Easter crafts, treats and a chocolate Easter cross. Some filled eggs contained candy and others contained Christian related toys.



### #3 Sharing Easter Joy with the Early Childhood Children

Easter Activity Pads along with Easter crafts were given to each of the ECE classes the week after Easter for the teachers to use with their weekly activities.



### #4 Sharing Easter with the ECE Children with the Gift of a Goody Bag

The Tuesday-Thursday Early Childhood children were not going to be able to attend the Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 9th. To spread the Joy of Easter, Immanuel church gave those children on Thursday, April 8th each a goody bag. These bags contained plastic eggs filled with candy, stickers, bracelets, Christian figures (donkeys, sheep, Jesus and butterflies), peeps and Rice Krispie treats.



# Easter 2021 at Immanuel

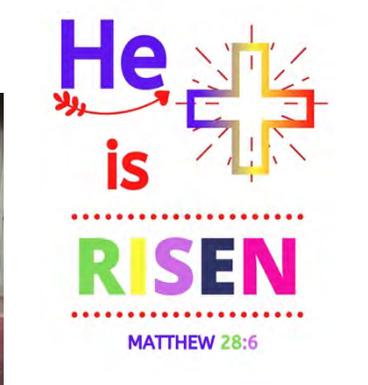
## Sharing Easter Joy in Different Ways

### #5 Sharing Easter with the ECE - a Church Sponsored Easter Egg Hunt

A large Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the church was held on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> to go along with the ECE Easter class parties. The hunt consisted of over **1600** eggs filled with candy, stickers, trinkets and figurines all focusing on Jesus and the Easter Gospel. The Toddlers and Two's were on the little playground. The 3's and 4's were on the big playground. Fun was had by all.



The Calm before the Storm



The little ones looking everywhere under the play equipment, around the tree and on the sidewalk.



# Easter 2021 at Immanuel

## Sharing Easter Joy in Different Ways

#5 Con't

Don't forget to look underneath!



The 3's and 4's were fast, running around and picking up the eggs.



All the children did a great job and a fast job of finding all the eggs.

Happy Easter!





## Focus on Stewardship

St. Paul teaches us: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (*Gal. 6:6*). And again, he says: "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (*1 Cor. 9:13-14*). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: "In the same way..."

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name

dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (*Deut. 14:22-23*). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?" If it does, ask yourself: Is the church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

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# What about Pastors...

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church also knows these are the precious duties our pastors are given to do. We must never allow other things to take priority over these key pastoral duties and activities.

With the help of God, our pastors have the responsibility to speak the truth in love, but this duty must be understood correctly.

Our pastors are not “people pleasers,” watering down the truths of God’s Word. Pastors pledge themselves unconditionally, and without qualification, to the Lutheran Confessions as contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, as a true and faithful exposition of the Word of God.

This strong doctrinal commitment safeguards the teaching of the truth of the Word of God in the congregation. Also, it protects the pastor from unjust criticism when he stands up for the truths of God’s Word. By means of this strong doctrinal foundation, both pastor and people are able to evaluate their relationship to one another and the work of the congregation.

## How do we support our pastors?

The most important way we support our pastors is through our prayers, asking the Lord of the Church to give our pastors wisdom, strength, courage and peace, asking Him to bless our pastors’ ministry among us and to work powerfully through their proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments. Our children should be taught each night to remember their pastor in their prayers.

The members of our congregations assist their pastor as they encourage and support him in the ministry entrusted to him. They volunteer their time, by serving in a variety of ways in the parish, and give of their treasures. The pastor is not a “hired hand,” who is to do all the work of the congregation. Telling the good news of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus, in many different situations and opportunities in life, is a task and duty given to all Christians, not only pastors (*Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 3:15*).

God’s Word also has these things to say about how we are to support our pastors. 1 Cor. 9:14: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.”

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## Stewardship . . .

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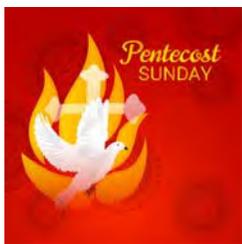
In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (*1 Peter 2:9-10*).

*~submitted by Kathy Angst*

*[Stewardship newsletter insert for May 2021, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=9wu6ociu8Ih5ZV1DnNYOlz0wSwDmOqu1>*



The National Day of Prayer is celebrated in this country on the first Thursday of May. This day is dedicated to prayers for our nation and our leaders as well as prayers for our families and friends. Immanuel will continue our tradition of holding a prayer service on this day, Thursday, May 6, at 7:00 pm.



**May 23  
Wear Red!**

## What about Pastors...

*(continued from page 11)*

Gal. 6:6-7: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." 1 Thess. 5:12-13: "Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other." Heb. 13:17: "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." What a blessing pastors have been to God's people down through the ages! May God continue to bless the church mightily through His gift of pastors.

## Immanuel Craft Group

One of our newest members, Gael Golden (mother of Max Bolen), would like to start a group of crafty people, men and women, to knit, crochet, and/or sew hats and blankets for pre-mature babies ("preemies") and perhaps newborns. Skill set can be very beginner to advanced; if you would like to learn how to knit, crochet, and/or sew, Gael is willing to teach these skills as well.

A little crocheted preemie hat takes about 15 minutes to make. You can work on items at home, or at Gael's home (near Little York & I-45). She can provide thread and scraps, and maybe even some yarn, or you can use materials you have or collect from others. The homemade items will go as gifts to a local hospital where needed.



For more information, you can talk to Gael on Sunday morning, call or text her at (214) 632-5105, or see the flyer in the Narthex.

### Newsletter Contributors

Editor.....	Barbara Szalkowski
Contributors.....	Kathy Angst
.....	Dr. A. L. Barry
.....	Cathleen Chevallier
.....	Pastor Joel Fritsche
.....	Vivian Garcia
.....	Pastor Richard Gaub
.....	Gael Golden
.....	Stephen Hernandez
.....	Ariana Kunz
.....	Winnie McNamara
.....	Lauren Neu
.....	Pastor Claudio Perez
.....	Ray Thomas
Graphic Design.....	Matthew Szalkowski

**Please Join Us – Everyone Welcome!**

**Sunday, May 30, 2021**

**Divine Service - 9:00 a.m.**

Presiding Minister and Guest Homilist

**Rev. Joel Fritsche**

Director of Concordia Seminary and Mercy Center  
Palmar Arriba, Santiago, Dominican Republic

**Adult Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.**

Mission in the Dominican Republic Presentation  
Rev. Fritsche

**Luncheon – 12:00 Noon**

Brisket, Sausage, Turkey  
Buttered New Potatoes  
Green Bean Casserole  
Cole Slaw  
Peach Cobbler

(Free Will Offering Benefiting Pastor Fritsche)



Reservation Required by May 17 for Luncheon  
Please contact Ariana in the Church Office – (713) 864-2651  
or Winnie at (281) 881-5872

**Immanuel Lutheran Church - 306 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street - Houston, Texas - 77008**



**Pray for**  
**REV. JOEL AND CLARION FRITSCHKE**  
**CHURCH PLANTER**  
**SERVING THE LORD IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**



Rev. Joel and Clarion Fritschke serve the Lord as missionaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Dominican Republic. In this role, Joel plants new churches in this country. He forms and develops groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations through Word and Sacrament ministry. Joel also serves as the director of Concordia Seminary and Mercy Center in Palmar Arriba (which is in the Santiago province of the Dominican Republic). As director, he teaches courses and helps prepare men to be pastors throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Joel was born in Houston, Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, and received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Before becoming a missionary, he served as a pastor of congregations in Wyoming, Texas and Illinois. He also worked as an admissions counselor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Clarion was born in Balboa, Panama City, Panama. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon. Before heading to the mission field, she taught at several Lutheran schools. Joel and Clarion have three beautiful children - Viktor, Sergei and Andrei - who join them on the mission field.

Please pray for the Fritschkes as they serve the Lord in the Dominican Republic. Pray that God gives them strength and peace in their family life and as they work to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ. Ask God to give Joel wisdom and faithfulness as he helps raise up pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to serve the Dominican church. Pray that God continues to bless Joel's service to the church and Clarion's homeschooling of their three boys. Let us give thanks that Joel, Clarion and their family are serving God's children in the Dominican Republic.

- **BIRTHDAYS:** Joel – Sept. 15, Clarion – Oct. 20, Viktor – Sept. 14, Sergei – Aug. 9, Andrei – April 8
- **ANNIVERSARY:** Dec. 27
- **HOME DISTRICT:** Southern Illinois

- **Pray daily for Joel and Clarion** — and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit [lcms.org/fritschke](http://lcms.org/fritschke)
  - **Learn about LCMS international work** at [international.lcms.org](http://international.lcms.org)
  - **Support and adopt an international worker.** Call 888-930-4438.
- LEARN • PRAY • GIVE • TELL • SEND • GO • CELEBRATE**



**“HERE AM I... SEND ME!”**  
**MY SUPPORT OF THE LCMS THROUGH THE WORK OF:**  
**Rev. Joel and Clarion Fritschke**

Give securely online at [lcms.org/fritschke](http://lcms.org/fritschke) or fill out the form below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF GIFT:**

- A monthly recurring gift** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the duration of Joel and Clarion's service. (Please choose a payment method below.)
- A per-year pledge commitment** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be fulfilled:
  - monthly  quarterly  semi-annually  annually
- A special gift** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I/WVE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MY/OUR GIFTS BY:**

- Check** — Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Write **Fritschke-Dominican Republic Support** on memo line.
- Automatic Withdrawal** — Please include a **VOIDED ORIGINAL CHECK**. I/we hereby authorize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to initiate automatic debits to my/our account at the financial institution named below. I/we acknowledge that the origination of direct debit (ACH) transactions to my/our account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law. This agreement will remain in effect until The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receives a written notice of cancellation from me or my financial institution.

Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

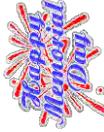
**Credit/debit card**  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type:  **VISA**  **MasterCard**  **DISCOVER**  **AMERICAN EXPRESS**  
 Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • P.O. Box 66861 • St. Louis, MO 63166-6861  
**QUESTIONS?** Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to [mission.giving@lcms.org](mailto:mission.giving@lcms.org).

Gifts received for LCMS international workers are deposited in an account restricted for the support of eligible international workers. Any gifts received in excess of a worker's requirement for a given year are held for that worker until needed. Should a worker's service conclude for any reason, the funds remaining in the restricted account will be transferred to one or more eligible LCMS international workers who most closely fulfill the restrictions of the original gift. With documented donor permission, a restricted gift can also be utilized to support international work budgeted by the LCMS. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



# Immanuel Lutheran Church – May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
<b>2 Usher Team #5</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>3</b> Evening Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> All Boards @ 7:00 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Usher Team #1 National Day of Prayer Service @ 7:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>9 Mother's Day</b> <b>Usher Team #2</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Church Council @ 7:00 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Usher Team #3 Ascension Divine Service @ 7:00 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>16 Usher Team #4</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>17</b> Evening Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>23 Pentecost</b> <b>Usher Team #5</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> ECE Last Day of School	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>30 Usher Team #1</b> Divine Service @ 9:00 am Social Ministry Door Offering Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am Lunch	<b>31 Memorial Day</b> Offices Closed ECE Closed 	<b>Sunday May 30: Pastor Joel Fritsche, Preaching and Speaking to Adult Bible Class with Lunch following</b>				<b>Voters' Meeting Sunday June 6 immediately following the service</b>	



## Lutheran High North - Coding Movie Making Robotics Camp June 21-25, 2021

One full week of camp, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm daily.  
End of Camp Demonstration (Show and Tell) Friday, June 25, at 4:00 pm.

For students who will be in grades 4-9 during the 2021-2022 school year (grades 3-8 now).  
30 students maximum enrollment. Enroll SOON. Final deadline to enroll is June 11.

INCLUDED: 5 full days of instruction, Monday through Friday, June 21-25, 8:00-am – 5:00 pm.  
Lunch and snacks included each day for 5 days, plus at least 1 field trip (if possible).  
\$200 cost includes 45 hours of camp, extended care 7:00-8:00 am or 5:00-5:30 pm as needed.

OPTIONS: Students will be given the option to SPECIALIZE in the areas of 1) Coding; 2) Movie Making; or 3) Robotics. All students will receive instruction in all 3 computer-related areas.

To reserve your spot, or to ask questions, please contact [paul.stuenkel@lhnlions.org](mailto:paul.stuenkel@lhnlions.org) or call Paul Stuenkel at 713-880-3131 ext 307 or 832-778-4107 (direct line).

# Serving Immanuel May 2021

	Sunday May 2	Natl Day of Prayer Thursday May 6	Sunday May 9	Ascension Thursday May 13
Elder	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.
Acolyte	Emily H.	<i>Elder</i>	Malachi	<i>Elder</i>
Usher Team	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Lonnie A.
Media	Karen E.	<i>No Media</i>	Jackie A.	<i>No Media</i>
Audio	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Maria O. & Vivian G.	Maria O. & Vivian G.	Maria O. & Vivian G.	Maria O. & Vivian G.

	Sunday May 16	Pentecost Sunday May 23	Sunday May 30
Elder	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.
Acolyte	Molly H.	Nikki B.	Emily H.
Usher Team	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.
Media	Melissa T.	Karen E.	Barbara S.
Audio	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.
Altar Guild	Maria O. & Vivian G.	Maria O. & Vivian G.	Maria O. & Vivian G.

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

# Serving Immanuel June 2021

	Sunday June 6	Sunday June 13	Sunday June 20	Sunday June 27
Elder	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.
Acolyte	Malachi W.	Molly H.	Nikki B.	Emily H.
Usher Team	#2 Larry G.	#3 Lonnie A.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.
Media	Jackie A.	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Karen E.
Audio	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Mary O. & Vivian G.			

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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*Witness, Mercy, Life Together ✝*  
*In Christ, for the Church and the World*



Prayer Service  
Thursday  
May 6, 2021  
7:00 pm



Divine Service  
Thursday  
May 13, 2021  
7:00 pm