

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 7, No. 12

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

November 2018

Welcome Rev. Richard Gaub

[Editor's Note: On Sunday, September 23rd, Immanuel Voters approved a motion brought by the Board of Elders to name Rev. Richard Gaub our Vacancy Pastor. Pastor Gaub ("ou" as in "out") began his service with us on Monday, October 1.]



Rev. Richard Gaub serves Memorial Lutheran School as middle school teacher of Math and Religion. He attended Elgin Community College, Northern Illinois University, and earned the Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Rev. Gaub has served as pastor and headmaster of schools in Wyoming, Virginia, and California. Rev. and Mrs. Gaub have four children and three grandchildren.

*~Stephen Hernandez
Immanuel Music Director*

[Editor's Note: Pastor Gaub will lead Divine services on Sunday mornings, midweek services during Advent, and other special services. He will lead Sunday morning Adult Bible study, and the Monday evening Bible study group. The Sunday morning Bible class began a study of the book of Daniel on October 28. Pastor is also leading a Confirmation class on Sundays after the Bible Class/Sunday School hour, and will be attending Board of Elders and Council meetings and is available to meet with members – contact the Church Office or Pastor directly – his cell phone number and email address are included in service folders or are available from the Church Office.]



Why Church?

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" Others say, "Oh, no, not church again." "You all go on, I have to do my housework." "Sunday is the only day for me to have for myself." "Honey, I'm on my way to have an oil change and have the car washed." "Mom! Dad! I can't join you at church, I'm joining my friends at the beach."

These are excuses made for missing Sunday church. Is there another gathering where children of God can hear His Word? Christians gather to give honor, to praise Him with hymns and to receive spiritual energy in this world of confusion. Church is a place where we pray jointly for each other and give our offerings for God's Word to be spread to a dark world.

There should be no excuses for substituting something else for the day of the Lord. The Third commandment states, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy." "We should fear and love God that we should not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The Church is where we were married and received His blessing.

The Church is where our children were baptized and their sin was washed away; now they are God's children.

The Church is my family. We are the light of the world and preach salvation given to believers in Christ Jesus.

Where else can we receive His body and Word and hear His words, "Take this for the forgiveness of your sins."?

Why Church? Because we need to be fed with His Word, thank Him for blessing, and express our love for our Savior.

~Pastor Claudio Perez

Pastor Gaub is leading a Confirmation class on selected Sundays after the Bible Class/Sunday School hour. Contact Pastor or the Church Office for information.



We want you to be included in our 100th Anniversary Directory!

Photographs will be taken THIS MONTH:

**Wednesday-Friday
November 28-30, 2018
2:00-9:00 pm**

**Saturday December 1, 2018
10:00 am-5:00 pm**

Every participating family receives an 8x10 photograph and a free directory.

Schedule your professional photography session today! Call the church office at (713) 864-2651 for more information.

~Winnie McNamara



Risk and Reward in Serving our Lord

At the Townhall meeting on Sunday, October 14th, the most active discussion was around the decision to offer communion every Sunday and celebration services. I found it interesting that the first reaction was about whether the Elders knew how to do the setup and cleanup on the 2nd and 4th Sundays – not excitement about the opportunity to commune more often. Admittedly, when the Elders brought this to me initially, I had a similar first reaction, but had to stop and remember that as Christians and Lutherans, as Pastor Gaub explained, this is what we are commanded to do.

My second thought turned to our current Altar Guild, its dwindling membership and how/why others are not volunteering for this rewarding service? Let me share my personal experience.

Many times when it's my month to serve, I do the setup alone – entering the dark sanctuary is a bit eerie, every little noise is magnified by the quiet; I turn on just enough light to navigate the chancel area around the altar. Most of the communion preparation is done in the small room on the lectern side of the church. It is a routine and a process; take the supplies, wine and wafers out of the cabinet, remove the communion ware from the safe, then begin placing the wafers and wine in the vessels, filling the individual cups of wine, stacking the trays carefully and making sure it's all perfect. Next is placing it all on the altar;

placing the linens and then placing the communion ware in just the right place, polishing the fingerprints away, and then draping the linen veil, stepping back to making sure the cross is aligned with the center of the "ihs" on the altar. Saying a little prayer that what I've done is pleasing to Him.

So you may ask – what is the risk in all this? The risk is in allowing yourself to participate, to risk an hour of your Saturday for a month each year, to risk being "alone" in His house, to be totally exposed at His altar. The reward is more than you can imagine! I get to spend an hour alone in the semi-dark sanctuary, preparing the vessels with wine and bread that will become Christ's body and blood, that will be offered to me, to ME, a miserable sinner and that I'll be washed clean once again.

I must admit that as my turn to serve approaches, I have to juggle my schedule and make sure I'm in town, but these adjustments and slight inconveniences are nothing in comparison to Christ giving His life for me, a poor miserable sinner.

My final thought for each of you – find the thing that challenges and makes you a little uncomfortable (at risk), maybe it's group Bible study, visiting the sick, ushering, there are many things – but when it comes to serving our Savior – the risk is worth the reward!

*~Blessings and Peace,
Denise Goehring*



Questions Congregations Should Ask Pastors During the Call Process

[Editor's Note. This was posted by Pastor Tom Van Duzer (Our Saviour Lutheran Church LCMS in Kansas City, Missouri), on the Lutheran Communicators Facebook group on 9/5/2018.]

As I am guiding the call committee at our church in the search for my successor I recently wrote this:

When I was interviewed by Our Saviour seven years ago I was asked "Do you preach from the pulpit or do you wander?" and "How long do you preach?" I would suggest that neither of these questions get to the heart of "good" preaching.

I would suggest questions like these:

- How do you make the gospel of Jesus fresh and real each week?
- What tools, methods have you found effective in connecting with your hearers?
- Whose preaching has taught you the most? Who do you learn from?
- What do you do to bring the text alive?
- What are the goals of your preaching? Both for a Sunday... and for a season?
- How do you ensure that you communicate to the differing people in the congregation, vis a vie age, education, spiritual maturity?
- What do you learn from your own preaching and/or study for preaching?

- What is different from preaching for you than leading Bible Study? (Interesting that call committees don't ask many questions about pastor as educator, for that is what we do most.)



ECE Box Decorating Contest

Some really cute designs resulted from our contest to make food donation boxes for the HIM Food Pantry! 1st Prize was a \$50 gift card to Michael's and 2nd Prize was a Scholastic Book Pack. Congratulations to the winners!



1st Place
Mrs. Luker's
Ladybug Box

2nd Place
Ms. Haylee's
Pumpkin Patch Box



Honorable Mention
Ms. Winnie's
Cookie Monster Box

~Winnie McNamara

Sunday School



No class pictures until November. Our October lessons focused on the Autumn leaves. We went on a journey through the Psalms. The leaves transform into many brilliant colors. Those colors remind us to slow down, wait for Jesus (yellow), warning, worship God only (orange), Salvation, God rescues (red) and new life as the Lord is our Shepherd (green). In the upcoming months, we will be giving thanks and making preparation for the Christmas season.

November is the month we wrap up our Sunday School “Love” Project. The items collected are being separated and distributed into the shoeboxes. Once the shoeboxes are ready, they will be dropped off at Trinity Klein Church for preparation for shipping to other countries. We will report our final numbers of shoeboxes in December. Our Goal is 36. We can’t say thank you enough for the congregation’s continued support of our projects reaching out to the community and beyond.



The Sunday School hour is one hour out of the week that we set aside to praise Jesus and grow our faith in Jesus. This is time spent in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. No matter the age, we should all make a commitment to spending Sundays with Jesus, week after week. To the parents, without you, the children can not make it to Sunday School. My prayer for you, is that you would see the joy and good that comes out of making a weekly commitment to your family and your faith. Our prayer for our class is that as we have fun with each other, that our walk with Jesus becomes stronger and over flows to those around us. Join Us @ 10:15.

“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

Baby Shower for Jessalyn and Philip



On September 2, the church gave a baby shower in anticipation of the arrival of our youngest church member.

There was a luncheon after worship. Then, games and fellowship along with lots of presents to open.



Welcome to the world Evie.
Congratulations to
Jessalyn and Philip!





Heights
Pediatric
Dentistry &
Orthodontics
visits
Immanuel
Lutheran
ECE





Focus on Stewardship

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or overseas than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like – how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like hearing about stewardship certainly means we ought to face it. Here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. This means we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else.

We don't pay for all the stuff we need, and think we need, and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10 percent? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

So, if 10 percent was needed in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

First-fruits, sacrificial, generous giving – that's the way. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've out-given God's goodness or that we've given plenty.

We might be tempted to think so but consider – no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

Or, as St. Paul said, bringing the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church:

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's law, and the law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance.

The law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

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Stewardship . . .

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In Mark's account of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus took the disciples' five loaves and two fish and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing.

Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing.

He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give, however little it might be, however grudgingly they do so, He blesses it.

He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them, the givers – not just in that they wind up with (a basket full for each loaf) but that they learned to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

He does all things well and works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, they love Him, and they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

~submitted by Kathy Angst

(Stewardship newsletter insert for November 2018, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=kXrsWRfjU5luBzB1xN5Kt5hcfRDnPvZQ>)



Last Home Football Game:
Friday November 2 @ 7:00 pm

Admissions Preview Brunch
Tuesday November 6 @ 9:00 am

Middle School Choir Festival Concert
Wednesday November 7 @ 6:30 pm

Winter Sports – Home Games
Boys Varsity Basketball: Nov. 7 @ 7:30,
Nov. 14 @ 7:00, Nov. 15 @ 7:30,
Nov. 26 @ 7:00, Nov. 30 @ 7:30

Boys Soccer – Nov. 8 JV @ 5:00, Nov. 12
Varsity @ 6:30, Nov. 13 JV @ 5:00,
Nov. 16 JV @ 5:00

Girls Varsity Basketball – Nov. 13 @ 5:30

Girls Varsity Soccer – Nov. 12 @ 5:00,
Nov. 26 @ 5:00, Nov. 29 @ 6:00

Annual Fund

The mission of Lutheran High North is to offer students excellence in academics and meaningful ministry that prepares them to be leaders in their schools, churches and communities.

Lutheran High North is a ministry that needs your support. Immanuel members were instrumental in the formation of the Lutheran High School Association 70 years ago.

(continued on page 10)

Lutheran High . . .

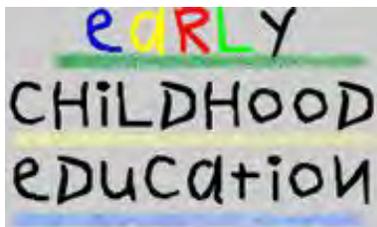
(continued from page 9)

Your prayers and financial support for this ministry are still important and appreciated. Many families cannot pay full tuition and depend on tuition assistance. Donations given to the annual fund help make this possible.

If you can help financially this year, please send a check or donate online at <http://lutheranhighnorth.org> under the Giving tab. Contact Lynn Eickemeyer if you have questions.

~Lynn Eickemeyer

The Thanksgiving Feast for all ECE families will be held Saturday, November 17, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Details will be sent home in the children's folders.



~Connie Meave



Save the Dates!

Saturday, @6:30pm, December 15.
Live Nativity with refreshments afterwards. *Volunteers will be needed.*

Sunday, @Noon, December 23.
Advent lunch



Advent Preview

The season of Advent begins Sunday, December 2. There will be midweek Advent services Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 7:00 pm. The theme for these midweek services will be the three parts of the Creed.

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

December 5 – ECE staff

December 12 – Evangelism Board
Menu: Polynesian Chicken and Rice, Salad, Pineapple Upside Down Cake

December 19 – TBA

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.

Newsletter Contributors

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.....	Mike Rivera
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Support Our Sponsored Missionaries

Dominican Republic Ministry Rev. Joel Fritsche & Family

Seminary Support

You can donate online through the following link: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/seminary-support>.

By mail, make a check payable to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and specify “Dominican Republic Seminary” in the memo line. Mail to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Mission Advancement
PO Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

General Support

Support/prayer card:
http://prayercards.lcms.org/Fritsche_DR_April%202017.pdf

To support the Fritsche's ministry, you may send a tax- deductible gift to either of the following:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Joel & Clarion Fritsche.”

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at <http://www.lcms.org/fritsche> or call (888) 930-4438.

Puerto Rico Ministry Rev. Richard & Gema Schuller

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 Schuller, Puerto Rico, and A-10898-69376 in the memo line.

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

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>



Thanksgiving Canned Goods

Donation Drive

October 10 – November 11, 2018

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Immanuel Early Childhood Education would like to provide the HIM Food Pantry with 1,750 cans of vegetables and fruit to be distributed to families in need before the Thanksgiving holiday!

We have set a goal for each classroom based on the number of children in the class. **The school goal is 1,500 cans and the church goal is 250 cans.**

The following **canned goods** are the most often needed items by the HIM Food Pantry at this time of year:

Carrots	Peas	Mixed Vegetables	Beans
Corn	Peas and Carrots	Spinach	Peaches
Green Beans	Potatoes	Mixed Fruit	Pears

Please drop your donations off in your child's classroom or bring them to the HIM Food Donation box in the narthex of the church. **Thank you for supporting our Fall Community Service Project!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Winnie McNamara at

281-881-5872

or

mcnamara.ils.ec
e@gmail.com



Thanksgiving Share-A-Meal

Help Us Provide Meals, Groceries and
Various Essential Items
for 4 ECE and Congregational Families
in Need

Pluck the TURKEY!



Pluck feather(s) and bring those items and
more, if you wish, back between
Sunday 11/4 and Sunday 11/11.
All items will be separated and packed for pickup.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Education

7th Annual Christmas Community Service Project

Benefitting
The Houston Area Women's Center

Accepting New Toys and Cash Donations
November 15 – December 5, 2018

Please make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church
Information: 713-864-2651, 713-861-8787 or Ms.Winnie@immanuelHouston.org



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14

Serving Immanuel in November 2018

	Sunday November 4	Sunday November 11	Sunday November 18	Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday November 21	Sunday November 25
Elder	Phil N.	Phil N.	Phil N.	Phil N.	Phil N.
Acolyte	Molly H.	Phil N.	Emily H.	Phil N.	Cameron W.
Usher Team	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.
Media	Jackie A.	Barbara S.	Karen E.	Jackie A.	Barbara S.
Audio	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.
Altar Guild	Antonette S. & Vivian G.	Antonette S. & Vivian G.			
Trustee	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.

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

Serving Immanuel in December 2018

	Sunday December 2	Wednesday December 5	Sunday December 9	Wednesday December 12	Sunday December 16
Elder	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.
Acolyte	Molly H.	Ray T.	Emily H.	Ray T.	Cameron W.
Usher Team	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.
Media	Karen E.	<i>No Media</i>	Jackie A.	<i>No Media</i>	Barbara S.
Audio	Ray T.	Max B.	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Max B.
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.

	Wednesday December 19	Sunday December 23	Christmas Eve Monday December 24	Christmas Day Tuesday December 25	Sunday December 30
Elder	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.
Acolyte	Ray T.	Molly H.	Emily H.	Cameron W.	Molly H.
Usher Team	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.
Media	<i>No Media</i>	Karen E.	<i>No Media</i>	<i>Media</i>	Jackie A.
Audio	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Max B.	Gerald O.	Ray T.
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 - November 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 4th Set Clocks BACK 1 Hour!</p>				<p>1 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 am–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Choir @ 6:30 pm Bells @ 7:30 pm</p>	2	3
<p>4 Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am</p>	<p>5 Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00</p>	<p>6 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 am–1:30 pm All Boards @ 7:00 pm RDCDS @ 7:30 – 9:30 pm</p>	<p>7 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am</p>	<p>8 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Choir @ 6:30 pm Bells @ 7:30 pm</p>	<p>9 FoD's Thanksgiving Talent Show Set-up</p>	<p>10 FoD's Thanksgiving Talent Show 4:00-9:00 pm</p>
<p>11 Usher Team #2 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Evie Nelson's Baptism Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 FOD Work Day (MH) 10:00 am–1:30 pm Naomi Meeting @ 10:00 am Council @ 7:00 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 am–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Choir @ 6:30 pm Bells @ 7:30 pm</p>	<p>16 Scottish Dancers Gym 7:00–9:00 pm</p>	<p>17 ILS ECE Thanksgiving Feast 10:00 am–3:00 pm Scottish Dancers Gym & (MH) 3:00 – 12:00 pm</p>
<p>18 Usher Team #3 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am</p>	<p>19 ECE Closed Daycare Open for All Day Students Only No Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>20 ECE Closed Daycare Open for All Day Students Only RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm</p>	<p>21 Offices Closed ECE Closed Usher Team # 4 Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service w/Communion @ 7:00 pm</p>	<p>22 Offices Closed ECE Closed </p>	<p>23 Offices Closed ECE Closed</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Usher Team #5 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Centennial Directory Photos 2:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p>29 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 am–1:30 pm Directory Photos 2:00-9:00 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Choir @ 6:30 pm Bells @ 7:30 pm</p>	<p>30 Centennial Directory Photos 2:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p>Dec. 1 Centennial Directory Photos 10:00 am-5:00 pm FoD Holiday Market 8:00 am-5:00 pm</p>



Immanuel Lutheran Church
1440 Courtlandt St
Houston, TX 77008

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ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 2489
NORTH HOUSTON,
TEXAS

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Love God ~ Care for Others

**Thanksgiving Eve
Service w/Communion**

Wednesday

November 21

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