

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 4, No. 4

March 2015

Celebrating a Milestone

Walter Kain celebrated 90 years of living under God's care and wonderful memories at Immanuel's Fellowship Hall on January 12th.

There were several tables set up, one with items and photos from Walt's early years, including some with his family, especially Susanne, his daughter, and Andrew, his grandson; others with desserts, vegetables, and fruit.



Walt and I have gotten to know each other well – he supplies me with the greeting cards for Immanuel's shut-ins. He never fails to remind me to pick up my batch each month. Twice I have forgotten to give the card to the person I'm visiting and have to return to deliver the card later. The cards are greatly anticipated by the members and give them great joy.

Susanne and Andrew are former members of Immanuel, but are now members of a new Lutheran congregation, Oikos Church, which meets at Lutheran High North on Sundays. Oikos Pastor Aaron Lytle was also present to congratulate Walt, as were many other friends and neighbors. May God continue to bless Walt in the coming year!

~Pastor Perez

Are You Ready for Lent? People and Facts to Test Your Knowledge of the Lord's Passion

- ___ A follower of Jesus who asked permission to remove Christ's body from the cross.
- ___ The first to question Peter in the High Priest's outer courtyard.
- ___ The Garden where Jesus prayed the same prayer three times.
- ___ The prisoner released in place of Jesus.
- ___ The man who helped carry the cross to Calvary.
- ___ The High Priest in Jerusalem during the Crucifixion.
- ___ Who rolled the stone away from the tomb on Easter morning?
- ___ Who yelled "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"?
- ___ Who were present early Easter morning at Jesus' tomb?
- ___ Who denied Jesus three times?
- ___ At the court trial, who was the last to question Jesus?
- ___ At the crucifixion, who asked to be remembered?
- ___ Who sent the notice, "Do not have anything to do with Jesus?"
- ___ Who questioned Jesus at the court on Thursday evening?
- ___ Who was governor of Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion?
- ___ Who said, "You say that I am."?
- ___ Who kissed Jesus?
- ___ Who made a false report about what happened Easter morning?
- ___ What did the sign posted on Jesus' cross say?
- ___ Who was the only disciple present at the death of Christ?

Each answer below will be used to answer one question above and all the answers will be used only once.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Peter | 11. Joseph of Arimathea |
| 2. Jesus | 12. The Guards |
| 3. Angel | 13. Gethsemane |
| 4. High Priest | 14. Caiaphas |
| 5. High Priest & Elders | 15. A Serving Girl |
| 6. Judas | 16. Barabbas |
| 7. Mary Magdalene & the other Marys | 17. Pilate's Wife |
| 8. Pilate | 18. The Jewish Crowd |
| 9. Thief on the Cross | 19. Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews |
| 10. Simon of Cyrene | 20. John |

(Answer list on page 9)

~Pastor Perez

Altar Guild

Immanuel Altar Guild celebrated its 39th anniversary in February with recognition during the Sunday February 8th worship service.



Very Back: Pastor King. *Back row left to right:* Brenda & Rachel Paulsel, Bonnie Thomas, Margaret Beacom, Bob McFarland, Martha McFarland, Evelyn Marsh, Denise Goehring, Maria Ortiz. *Front left to right:* Antoinette Sherwood, Cleo Fischer, Delores Quin, Sigrid Reifel, Mary Osborn. *Not Pictured:* Doris Baker, Carolyn Breithaupt, Anna Hutchinson, Silvia Garza, Nicol Ortiz, Larry Stephens, Pastor Perez

~photo by Joel Norris



Sunday Morning Coffee/Donut Brigade

Looking for Volunteers for March thru June 2015!

Sign up one month at a time. Sharing is Caring! Share duties with a friend. Signup Sheet located in Miertschin Hall.

~Cathleen Chevallier



Fine Arts Events

1st 5:00 Band concert
6th 6:30 Band festival concert
(middle school and high school bands)

Home Athletic Events

6th 4:30 Baseball game
13th 4:30 Softball and baseball games
20th 4:30 Softball and baseball games
26th 4:30 Softball and baseball games
31st 4:30 Softball and baseball games

Lion Look Breakfast for parents of potential students – March 5th, 8:30-10:00am

Scrip Orders due – March 6th noon
This is a PTL fundraiser. You can support Lutheran High North by buying gift cards. They can be used for gifts or you can just use them yourself at places you spend money anyway. You buy them at face value and the LHN PTL gets a percentage.

Gala Auction

“Boots and Bling: An LHN Thing”

Saturday, March 11th

6:00pm at the Sheraton Brookhollow

Spring Musical

“Footloose”

Matinee Performances

Thursday, April 23rd, 9:00am and 12:30pm

Saturday, April 25th, 2:00pm

Evening Shows, 7:00pm

Friday, April 24th & Saturday, April 25th

~Lynn Eickemeyer



Community Partner

If you've noticed a difference inside our sanctuary, the credit goes to the students of The Friends of Down Syndrome School who have been working weekly in our sanctuary since December. They perform duties including polishing the wood on the church pews, replenishing attendance and giving cards, keeping our pencils sharpened, and tidying our pew Bibles and Hymnals. They also dust the choir area. This is the school's way of showing their appreciation to Immanuel Congregation for supporting the school, and for allowing them the use of Miertschin Hall for their group gatherings.



The Friends of Down Syndrome School for Adults with Down syndrome was founded by Mrs. Rosa Rocha in April 2014. The school is a non-profit 501(3)(c) corporation that depends on charitable donations to cover their operational costs; they provide life education classes and care services for adults with Down syndrome. Educational services for adults with mental and physical impairments are desperately lacking from our local and federal government-sponsored program systems. The school provides much needed services to the

many families with adult children that otherwise would have no other educational nor care option.

Allowing the students to come to Immanuel serves a much greater purpose in that it inspires a sense of community service and personal accomplishment. The working group consists of approximately 20 students that rotate weekly. There are 4 or 5 adults working each week from 10:00am to 2:00pm, so please feel free to drop by to say hello, or bring your lunch and join them as they eat their own lunches, and see the great job they're doing!

Thank you for your support and consideration of this magnificent group of people. You have no idea how much your support means.

~ Toyja Evans

Leap of Faith

On Sunday, February 8, Ray Thomas took a leap of faith and sang two verses of the closing hymn, "What Wondrous Love Is This?" It was the first time Ray had performed a vocal solo, and we give thanks to God for Ray's voice and willingness to serve in this way. Thanks, Ray!



(photo by Joel Norris)



Scholastic Book Fair • March 12-15

Help Us Put New Books in our ECE classrooms! Our Scholastic Book Fair will be here soon and there will be a variety of books and merchandise to browse for every age and every person on your gift list. There will be several opportunities to win free books. Information on these contests will be posted around our church and ECE. We would like to surpass last year's dollar goal by selling \$3,100 worth of books and merchandise.

We are trying something new this year – shopping on Saturday, March 14, that will be open to our Heights neighbors and friends. Everyone who attends our Shopping Saturday will be eligible to enter to win a \$50 Book Basket. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact the school office.

The online Book Fair offers twenty-four hour shopping and will be available from March 2-16 at <http://scholastic.com/fair>

Shopping Hours for the Book Fair

Thursday-Friday March 12 and 13
7:00 am-12:00 Noon and 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

Saturday March 14
10:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday March 15 • 11:30 am-1:00 pm
(after Bible Class/Sunday School,
during Social Sunday lunch)

~Winnie McNamara



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help assist with Parents' Time Off and Social Sundays.



Parents' Time Off. There is a need for volunteers to assist with the children as well as set up, activities and food preparation. This is a great opportunity to reach out and get to know some of the families of the ECE. We had our largest group on February 13th-26 children! Please contact Cathleen Chevallier at (936) 499-5531 or jcsnchevallier@gmail.com.



Social Sunday. This is a great opportunity for any committee or group of individuals to share their cooking talents on the fourth Sunday of the month. This event has become a wonderful time of fellowship for the members of Immanuel. This meal can also be utilized as a fundraiser. If interested in helping or cooking, please contact the Social Committee.

Upcoming Events

Social Sunday Lunch, March 15th, 11:30 am

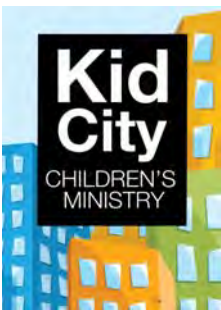
Community Easter Celebration/Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 am

Community Picnic. First weekend in May

~Cathleen Chevallier



Kid City is off to a good start for 2015. Class attendance is ranging from 10-15 children on Sunday mornings. Praise the Lord! We will soon be approaching the Lenten Season. The class will begin preparing for Holy Week and Easter.



Kid City
 Sunday School
 Designed for Kids
 Ages 3 to 12 years
 10:15 am
 Miertschin Hall Classroom 3

Interactive lessons, singing, games and snacks. Your child will learn who Jesus is and how much God loves them.

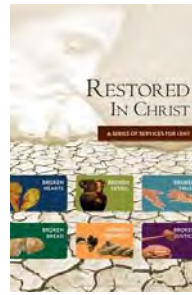


Ages 13-18 years
 10:15 am in the Gym Basement

Discipleship via video, live teaching and small group discussion.

"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



Restored in Christ Lent Series

This Lent season, the midweek and Holy Week services through Easter will follow this series which guides us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world, and then turn that brokenness over to Christ so that we can be restored by him through the cross. Written by seminary professor Joel Biermann, each service in the series focuses on certain event in the Lenten story and takes a good, hard look at a broken element from that particular story. Coming to an understanding of how each of these broken elements in these services leads to restoration in Christ is key to understanding what it ultimately means to live today as new creations in Christ.

Ash Wednesday • "Broken Hearts Restored"

Week 1 • "Broken Vessel Restored"

Week 2 • "Broken Trust Restored"

Week 3 • "Broken Bread Restored"

Week 4 • "Broken Promises Restored"

Week 5 • "Broken Justice Restored"

Palm Sunday • "Broken Majesty"

Maundy Thursday • "Broken Sanctuary"

Good Friday • "Broken Curtain"

Easter Sunday • "Broken Seal"

The Sunday morning Adult Bible class during Lent will go along with this midweek series. We look forward to seeing you!

The Catechism Hymns of Martin Luther - Confession

"From Depths of Woe I Cry to You" is Martin Luther's paraphrase of Psalm 130. In Latin, Psalm 130 is titled "De Profundis" which translates "Out of the depths." He wrote it in 1523 and included it in a letter to George Spalatin, the court chaplain of Frederick the Wise, as an example to encourage Spalatin to write other hymns. Since there were no copyright laws at the time, anyone could copy and distribute it. Leupold says that "a chronicler of the city of Magdeburg gives a vivid account of a peddler who on May 6, 1524, sang the new Lutheran hymns on the market place and sold the leaflets to the people. The mayor had him clapped in jail, but the enthusiastic burghers saw that he was freed in short order to continue singing the hymns of Martin Luther."

Already in January of that same year, the Nurnberg printer, Jobst Gutknecht, had compiled 8 hymns, including "From Depths of Woe," into the first Lutheran hymnal known as the "Achtliederbuch" (Hymnal of Eight). Four of the hymns were written by Luther. The actual title page reads "Some Christian hymns, canticles, and Psalms made according to the pure Word of God, from Holy Scripture by several very learned men, to sing in church as it is in part already practiced in Wittenberg."

Gutknecht may have received a corrupted version from someone who only heard the hymn but didn't know all the words. The version in the "Achtliederbuch" only had 4 stanzas. Walther's Wittenberg hymnal of 1524 and all later hymnals in Luther's sphere had 5

stanzas, as does our Lutheran Service Book #607. "From Depths of Woe" was included in three other hymnals in 1524, two in Wittenberg and one in Erfurt. In 1525 it was sung at the funeral of Frederick the Wise in Wittenberg. It was sung at the funeral of Luther himself on February 20, 1546, in Halle.

There were several melodies associated with this hymn, but the tune "Aus tiefer not" composed probably by Luther, best fits the text. This melody is in the Phrygian mode which means it uses all the white keys on a piano from E to E and has a plaintive character. This hymn expresses the heart of Biblical and Reformation doctrine - deepest repentance and highest assurance of forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ alone. Stanza 3 says, "Therefore my hope is in the Lord and not in mine own merit." And in stanza 5, "Though great our sins, yet greater still is God's abundant favor; His hand of mercy never will abandon us nor waver." What comfort!

*References used to write this article were:
Luther's Works, Volume 53: Liturgy and Hymns, Leupold, ed., Fortress Press, 1965.
Lutheran Worship Hymnal Companion, Fred L. Precht, Concordia Publishing House, 1992.
Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship, M.K. Stulken, Fortress Press, 1981.*

~Diane Robinson

**Daylight Savings Time
Begins Sunday, March 8th**

**Set your clocks forward
ONE HOUR Saturday night.**



Focus on Stewardship

Why does giving seem so difficult? In reality, it isn't. But we make it difficult. We make it difficult because we're afraid. We're afraid that it isn't worth the investment. We're afraid that what we give to the church might be wasted, or that we could use it for something better, something more enjoyable, something more real, more tangible, more immediate, even more important, something more important than God and His gifts.

The point is this: We struggle with giving because we don't believe as we should. We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. And so we fail to give because we don't love God with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We fail to give because we don't fear Him more than we fear other things. We fail to give because we don't trust Him more than we trust the things we can more immediately see, taste, and touch. We don't trust that He will give us everything (EVERYTHING!) we need to support this body and life. For if we did fear, love, and trust in God above all things, we would see and know that all the other things that vie for our time, our talents, and our treasures pale in comparison to the joy of the real, tangible, immediate love God has showered upon us in the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins on account of His Son's death, resurrection, and ascension.

The only proper response to this is repentance: to confess our sin, our stinginess, our lack of fear, love, and faith in God's promises, and to

trust in Him to help us bring our desire to do better to fruition. For God is not holding out on us. He never has. He never will. For if He has given you His only Son, how will He not also give you all things? He will. It is His promise. And these promises are sure and certain.

The reality is that God doesn't need our giving. He doesn't need our time, our talents, our treasures. He is God. We are not. He can do all things without our help. And even what we do give, even the good and righteous things we do accomplish, these are but filthy rags, as the prophet Isaiah tells us (Isaiah 64:6). Our gifts to God and to the Church are like a child's gift of dandelions to his mother. They are weeds, which most of us spend an entire summer trying to rid our yards of them. And yet despite the fact that they are weeds, mothers always receive them with a smile and with joy. They will even put them in vases and display them on tables and countertops. They will recount to friends and other family members how their child gave them "flowers," just to say I love you and I'm thankful for all you do.

Our Lord, too, receives with joy and a smile the gifts we give in thanksgiving and praise of what He has done. Even though these gifts are but weeds, filthy rags, and despite the fact that He doesn't need them to accomplish what He wills, He receives them and puts it to use for our and our neighbors good. That is the real joy of giving. He doesn't need us. Yet He makes use of us, He employs us in His service despite it. He makes all that we do—our giving, our work, our service to our family and friends and neighbors—holy. And He blesses it for their and our good and to the glory of His name.

(continued on page 9)

Fritsche Ministry Update

From their February 14th email . . .



We're almost ready...

We are one week from our departure to the mission field in the Dominican Republic. We've sold most of our belongings, packed up the rest and are now spending a week in Houston, Texas with family before we leave on February 21st. Thank you so much for your prayers and support! We will send out our next newsletter in early March FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC! Thank you for following our journey! God bless you all!

In Christ,
Rev. Joel & Clarion Fritsche & Family
LCMS Missionaries to the Dominican Republic

**Proceeds from the
March Hamburger Fry
will benefit
Immanuel's Social Ministry Fund**

Answers to Lent Facts Test

(From Test on page 2)

11, 15, 13, 16, 10, 14, 3, 18, 7, 1, 4, 9, 17, 5,
8, 2, 6, 12, 19, 20

Stewardship . . .

(continued from page 8)

So is giving so hard? Nah, it's like giving dandelions to our mothers. And when dinner is ready, when the food is on the table, she'll gladly have a vase full of them right in the middle. The Lord has prepared a table for you. Dinner is ready. The table is set. His Body and Blood is given to strengthen and nourish you. And right there, where Christ is with us, are the dandelions we gave. He has put them to use for our good, for our forgiveness, for our life in Him.

*(Stewardship newsletter insert for March 2015, provided on the LCMS website
<https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=3247>)*

~submitted by Kathy Angst



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Lent Midweek Schedule
Wednesdays February 18-March 25

5:30 pm • Soup/Sandwich Dinner
7:00 pm • Worship Service

Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:00 am
Worship Service w/Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm
Worship Service w/Communion

Good Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm
Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 5
7:00 am
Sunrise Worship Service w/Communion

8:30 am • Breakfast

10:00 am
Celebration Worship Service (Non-Communion)



Immanuel Lutheran Church - March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Usher Team #2 Worship w/Communion @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class and Sunday School Unveil Church @ 10:15 am	2 Weeknight Bible Study 6:30 pm	3 Board Meetings @ 7:00 pm	4 Women's Bible Study @ 10:00 am Lenten Dinner @ 5:30 pm Usher Team #3 Worship @ 7:00 pm	5 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6 Rental Miertschin Hall Houston Conchology Society @ 3:00 pm	7 Rental Miertschin Hall Houston Conchology Society @ 9:00 am–4:00 pm Unveil Setup @ 11:00 am–1:00 pm	
8 Daylight Savings Time (spring forward) Usher Team #4 Worship @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class and Sunday School Unveil Church @ 10:15 am	9	10 Men's Breakfast @ AAA restaurant @ 6:30 am Church Council 6:00 pm Naomi Meeting @ 7:00 pm	11 Lenten Dinner @ 5:30 pm Usher Team #5 Worship @ 7:00 pm	12 Handbells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13	14 Unveil Setup @ 11:00 am–1:00 pm	
15 Usher Team #6 Worship w/Communion @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class and Sunday School Unveil Church @ 10:15 am Social Sunday Lunch @ 11:30 am	16 Weeknight Bible Study 6:30 pm	17	18 Women's Bible Study @ 10:00 am Lenten Dinner @ 5:30 pm Usher Team #7 Worship @ 7:00 pm	19 Hamburger Fry @ 11:00 am–1:00 pm Benefitting Immanuel Social Ministry Handbells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	20	21 Unveil Setup @ 11:00 am–1:00 pm	
22 Usher Team #1 Worship @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class and Sunday School Unveil Church @ 10:15 am	23	24 Men's Breakfast @ AAA restaurant @ 6:30 am Voters Meeting 7:00 pm	25 Lenten Dinner @ 5:30 pm Usher Team #2 Worship @ 7:00 pm	26 Handbells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	27	28 Unveil Setup @ 11:00 am–1:00 pm	
29 Usher Team #3 Palm Sunday Worship w/Communion @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class and Sunday School Unveil Church @ 10:15 am	30	31	April 2 Maundy Thursday Worship w/Communion 7:00 pm Usher Team #4			April 3 Good Friday Worship 7:00 pm Usher Team #5	
			April 4 5th Annual Easter Celebration 10:00 am			April 5 Easter Usher Team #6 Sunrise Service w/Communion 7:00am Breakfast 8:30 am Usher Team #7 Celebration Service (Non-Communion) 10:00 am	



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

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2489
HOUSTON, TEXAS

God with us, transforming and sending

Immanuel Lutheran Church

5th Annual Easter Celebration

Saturday, April 4th @ 10:00 a.m.

- Crafts, Games, Fun Activities
- Refreshments

Easter Egg Hunt
- Over 2000 eggs -

Prizes for Everyone!
Pictures with the
Easter Bunny!

Community Welcome!

306 E. 15th St. Houston, TX 77008 / 713-864-2651

immanuelhouston.org

