

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 5, No. 4

March 2016

"All You Need Is Love"

"All you need is love!" When John, Paul, George, and Ringo first sang those words back in 1967 they were trying to send a message. They were inspired to send out a unified message that couldn't be misunderstood: "Love is Everything!"



I agree with those boys from Liverpool, at least in part. Love is huge. Love is great. Love is the power that transcends past wrongs and old wounds. But our love is limited. It is limited because we're all selfish. Ok, maybe that's a bit harsh. How about we are all, at least in part, selfish. Because Satan let sin loose in the world and because we are stained by that sin, none of us has pure motives. We may love, and we may love with our whole heart, but when we love it is in part because it serves us to be in love. We enjoy the way it feels to love. The object of our love, whether spouse, child, or dear friend, brings joy to our heart when we love them and when they love us in return. So obviously, love is NOT *everything*.

Or maybe it is. Just not our love. But the love of Jesus is everything. His love knows no bounds. Knows no limits. Knows no impatience or struggle. His love is everything. And through His love, we can love others in ways we would normally not be capable of. We can be self-sacrificial, forgiving, and patient.

St. Paul says, "*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*" (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

Because we have the love of Christ we may freely pass it on. At church, at home, at work, even in the grocery store we can pass on that love of Christ. It is the greatest of gifts. And it is a gift that grows when shared. Jesus loves you, and so do I. Pass it on.



~In Christ,
Pastor King



Lent Bible Trivia

- ___ 1. What statement was used to find Jesus guilty of blasphemy?
- ___ 2. What important Jewish religious celebration did Jesus and His disciples observe together?
- ___ 3. Who was told to help Jesus carry His cross?
- ___ 4. What do Christians call the week before Easter?
- ___ 5. Why was Jesus not arrested during the day?
- ___ 6. Which disciple said, "Surely not I, Lord."?
- ___ 7. Whose ear did Peter cut off.
- ___ 8. Did Jesus resist arrest?
- ___ 9. Who said, "Surely He was the Son of God."?
- ___ 10. How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
- ___ 11. Who said, "The one that dips his hand into the bowl"?
- ___ 12. What did the High Priest do after hearing Jesus' confession?
- ___ 13. What did the disciples do while Jesus prayed in the garden?
- ___ 14. Who is Caiaphas?
- ___ 15. Who had the authority to crucify Jesus?
- ___ 16. How did Pilate show that Christ's crucifixion was not to his liking?
- ___ 17. Who did Jesus invite to pray with him in the garden?
- ___ 18. How was Judas satisfied for betraying Jesus?
- ___ 19. What does "Golgotha" mean?

- ___ 20. Where did Jesus go to pray after celebrating the Passover?
- ___ 21. What modern times are the sixth hour and the ninth hour?
- ___ 22. Which disciple said, "Even if all fall away, I will never?"
- ___ 23. As Jesus was arrested, how was he recognized?
- ___ 24. What is the Sanhedrin?
- ___ 25. Who was the notorious prisoner set free on Good Friday?
- ___ 26. Which woman was most grieved at the cross?
- ___ 27. Name the other man, who with Nicodemus, removed Jesus' body from the cross.
- ___ 28. What did Peter use to try and stop the arrest of Jesus?
- ___ 29. What was Jesus' defense to his accusers of blasphemy?
- ___ 30. What day of the week did Jesus and the disciples celebrate Passover and institute the Lord's Supper?

Answer choices:

- A. Peter
- B. Judas
- C. Peter, James, John
- D. Malchus
- E. Three times
- F. Jesus
- G. Pilate
- H. He called Himself the Son of God.
- I. Jesus was too popular.
- J. He washed his hands before the crowd.
- K. 12 noon and 3 in the afternoon.
- L. He said nothing.
- M. The Chief Priest of Jerusalem.
- N. The Passover.

(continued on page 3)

Naomi Willing Workers Paper Drive Recap

The Naomi Willing Workers group sponsored a congregation-wide paper goods drive for the Good Samaritan Group Home in Cypress, Texas. Thank you for the show of generosity to all who contributed – we collected 295 rolls of toilet paper, 44 rolls of paper towel, 19 boxes of Kleenex tissues and 5 packages of napkins. This is an annual event, and the residents and staff of the group home were very appreciative of the supplies. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this year such a big success.



Naomi Willing Workers (pictured, left-right): Evelyn Marsh, Dora Schulle, Carla Faske, Sigrid Reifel, Martha McFarland, Cleo Fischer, Elisa Perez and Margaret Beacom. Not pictured: Doris Baker, Dorothy Klander, Mary Osborn, Bonnie Thomas and Val Dietrich.

--photo by Bob McFarland

~Martha McFarland & Cathleen Chevallier

**Daylight Savings Time
Begins Sunday March 13th!**

**Set Clocks Forward 1 Hour
Before Retiring Saturday Night**



Every Easter, Immanuel adorns the sanctuary and narthex with Easter lily plants donated by members to thank God for the Savior's resurrection, for blessings received, or in memory or honor of loved ones.

Members can purchase a plant (or multiple plants) for \$10.00 each through the church office or using the order form insert in the weekly service bulletins. Please make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 13th.

Lent Bible Trivia . . .

(continued from page 2)

- O. A sword.
- P. Tore his clothes.
- Q. Simon of Cyrene.
- R. Holy Week.
- S. Sleep.
- T. Barabbas.
- U. Joseph of Arimathea.
- V. Thursday.
- W. No.
- X. With 30 pieces of silver.
- Y. Garden of Gethsemane.
- Z. The Jewish Council.
- AA. Skull.
- BB. Judas kissed Jesus.
- CC. The Centurion.
- DD. Mary, Jesus' mother.

[Answers on page 5]

~Pastor Perez



Focus on Stewardship

Lent is a season of repentance. Repentance is turning away from sin, while we turn toward God for the forgiveness of sins. During Lent, we hear the Word of God and consider our lives in light of it. We confess our failures, and receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, and then commit ourselves to do better.

What does God say about giving to the Church? The Bible tells us. Our giving should be first fruits giving (Genesis 4:4; Proverbs 3:9). Our giving should be regular, on the first day of week, which has the Divine Service in mind (1 Corinthians 6:1–2). Our giving should be proportional: according to our income (1 Corinthians 16:1–2), according to what we have been given (2 Corinthians 8:12; Luke 12:48), our giving should be given with a spirit of eagerness and enthusiasm (2 Corinthians 9:2), generosity and liberality (2 Corinthians 8:20), cheerfully without compulsion (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our giving should be directed to those who teach us (Galatians 6:6–7) because a laborer is worthy of his hire, and we all know the going rate of such laborers in our communities (Luke 10:7; 1 Timothy 5:18).

Now consider your own giving in light of the Bible's teaching. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? Are you giving with eagerness and enthusiasm? Are you giving to your local congregation, sharing all

good things with the one who teaches you? If your answer to any of these is "No," then repent. Turn away from your sin and toward God for forgiveness. Confess your failure. Receive absolution. And commit to do better. We know that the Spirit is willing but our flesh is weak. We believe, and we pray that God, through Word and Sacrament, would help our unbelief, our lack of trust in His ability to provide.

And this is precisely what God promises. This is what St. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. Everyone benefits. We will be blessed in our giving, and it will produce thanksgiving to God in those who receive it.

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March Events

Tuesday 1 st	Softball 5:00 pm
Sunday 6 th	Band concert 3:00 pm
Tuesday 8 th	Softball 5:00 pm
Wednesday 9 th	Softball 5:00 pm
Friday 11 th	Softball 5:00 pm
Saturday 12 th	Baseball TBD
Friday 18 th	Softball TBD
	Baseball 5:30 pm
Thursday 24 th	Baseball 5:30 pm

Coming up in April

Friday 1 st	City-wide band festival 6:30 pm
Saturday 16 th	Gala – Boots & Bling II 5:30 pm (Auction/dinner)



Thursday 28 th	Matinees 9:00am, 12:30 pm
Friday 29 th	7:00 pm
Saturday 30 th	7:00 pm

~Lynn Eickemeyer

Lent Bible Trivia Answers

(Questions on page 2)

- 1-H, 2-N, 3-Q, 4-R, 5-I, 6-B, 7-D, 8-W, 9-CC,
 10-E, 11-F, 12-P, 13-S, 14-M, 15-G, 16-J, 17-C,
 18-X, 19-AA, 20-Y, 21-K, 22-A, 23-BB, 24-Z,
 25-T, 26-DD, 27-U, 28-O, 29-L, 30-V

Stewardship . . .

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Giving to the church is not a burden, just like all of God’s teaching (1 John 5:2–4). They are not a burden because of He who gives it: the God who loves us and gave His only Son to die so that we may live. He loved us in that He sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons. . . . So we are no longer slaves, but sons, and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:4–5, 7). We are heirs. We receive the full rights of sons, a status that Christ our Lord achieved for us by His death, resurrection, and ascension.

So we strive to do what He asks because we are His children. And when we don’t, we repent. We confess our sins. We receive absolution. We desire to do better, praying that God would work in us both to will and to do according to His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

*(Stewardship newsletter insert for March 2016, provided on the LCMS website
<http://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=3938>)*

~submitted by Kathy Angst

Newsletter Staff

Editor.....Barbara Szalkowski
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Aschenbeck Family Ministry Update

Excerpt from January 2016 Newsletter



Christmas Eve in Tanacross brought the light of Christ to many! Late that evening there would be at least 65 at the candlelight service who would witness two baptisms, who would hear the Good News of Christ, and who would witness 18 children participating in the Nativity scene. It was wonderful watching and hearing the children sing "Jesus Loves Me" in the Athabascan language.

No one knew that the joy of Christmas would be shattered a couple weeks later. The grandmother of one of the boys baptized would be called to her eternal home without warning. The light of Christ broke through the darkness of sin, death, and Satan and carried her to her eternal home.

We are often shocked by death, but in reality we shouldn't be! Christ has promised to come back for those whom he loves and who have faith in Him. For those who die in Christ, death is not something to be feared or sorrowful about. Instead it is a reason to rejoice!

One thing I really like about the Athabascan culture is the potlatch. After the funeral and meal there is a time of singing and dancing

that is filled with sorrow and mourning. The evening then turns to rejoicing and celebrating and ends with the giving of gifts.



The Christian life is quite similar. Now is the time for sorrow and mourning as we reside in the darkness of sin. And even though we live in this world filled with darkness we rejoice and celebrate as we look forward to the gift of eternal life which is ours in Christ.

The last quarter of 2015 has been a very busy time for our family! We finally moved into a larger house and property in early October. We are working to make it into our permanent base of operations here in Alaska! There is lots of room so be sure to come visit! We were able to share Thanksgiving in our new home with several friends from the Tok community watching football and eating the amazing food prepared by Stacey! (Although Keith cooked the turkey!)

Anna has gotten her hair cut. In Keith's opinion it is short, though it is past her shoulders still. She also received a perm with tight curls and is cute as a button. She continues to grow like a weed.

Micah's hair has been buzzed with the exception of a long "rat tail" in the back. He wears it the same as many of the natives,

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Aschenbeck . . .

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neatly braided and generally hidden under his shirt. He is still as energetic as always though he has made great leaps and bounds in his school achievement. Much of that success is owed to his amazing teacher who conducts her classroom in a very unique way.

With the snow and now a dog sled Kaleb has been busy running his dogs. He and Keith were finally able to get a trail cut through the woods so he doesn't have to cross any roads. When it comes to dancing and singing in the village, Kaleb is always in the middle of it.

Trey continues to mature into a wonderful young man. He has a servant attitude when he is in the village and has impressed many of the elders with his respect and attentive nature.

Stacey continues to work to keep the kids on track with all their school work. She also picks up substituting opportunities in the villages as they arise. Lately she has been serving as hostess to the guests we have had. She has so enjoyed being in a house where there is room for people to visit.

Stacey and all the kids went to Illinois for a couple of weeks to visit family. They left Keith to fend for himself, though he had little time to rest with all the happenings of ministry and doing some repair work around the house.

Keith found an old snow machine (1989 Ski Doo) for sell quite cheap. A little work on it and the kids have been having a blast being towed around. Mom is also much happier with a decent way to keep up with Kaleb as he runs the dogs.

Please pray for:

- The AMC volunteer in-service taking place near Chicago in January.
- Keith as he plans a trip to the Mid-West in April.
- AMC Volunteer teams who are now preparing for the summer of 2016 and the work God has in store for them.

Our Ministry in Alaska is made possible only by donors like you! Donate online at

<http://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org>

Mail donations to: Alaska Mission for Christ,
8100 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage AK 99518

Note "Keith Aschenbeck" in the memo section and 100% of your donation will go to directly support his ministry. Donations are tax deductible. Statements are sent out after the end of the year. Thank you for your support!

Contact Pastor Keith:

E-mail: revkeithamc@gmail.com

Address: 537 Musers Way
Tok, AK 99780-0537

~Rev. Keith Aschenbeck



*[See the entire newsletter at
<http://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org/s/AMC-monthly-Newsletter-January-2016-email-7c7w.pdf>]*

Fritsche Family Ministry Update

Excerpt from February 2016 newsletter

Polvo eres. A polvo volverás. From dust you are and to dust you shall return. Last week I spoke those words to Pastor Willy, my fellow missionaries and the members of Amigos de Cristo as we crossed the threshold into Lent. Lent begins by reminding us of our mortality. Ashes are placed onto the forehead in the form of a cross. Later, washing off those ashes is a reminder of Holy Baptism. But there's so much more!

Sure, Lent is somber. We save the "alleluias" for the joyous day of our Lord's resurrection. The *Gloria in Excelsis* disappears for a while. But Lent is ultimately about the joy of the Gospel. It's not that we get an extra forty days to lie in ashes and sackcloth and mourn over our sins. That's not the intent. Nor is it about giving up things, although that can be a useful tradition.

Lent is about Jesus, who for the JOY set before Him, endured the cross (Hebrews 12:2). It's about God's steadfast love in Christ, apart from which our hearts would remain lost in the darkness of sin. The prophet Joel called (and still calls) God's people to rend their hearts, to return to the Lord. That's what the Holy Spirit works through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Like David, we pray for a new, clean heart (Psalm 51). And God gladly gives you one!

Only God can rend our hearts. Only God can rend the hearts of those to whom we are sharing the Gospel here in the Dominican Republic. We begin with ashes this Lent, but all

of our Gospel readings hold before us the Savior. From the Jesus who, thrice tempted, sends the devil fleeing to the same Jesus who rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, He's always headed to the cross, where He suffered and died for the sins of the world, yours and mine. That's the steadfast love of God by which He calls and reaches out to you to bring you back into his fold, to return to Him with all your heart.

Rend your heart and return to the Lord. That happens daily as the Holy Spirit keeps you in Christ through repentance and faith. Your baptism means that you're clothed, not with sackcloth, but with Him who conquered death and brings you life and immortality. It's that same Jesus we preach during Lent and every time the Lord gathers us in His house. So yes, Lent may be somber as we watch our Lord go to the cross, knowing the horror of what He endured. But at the same time, there's the joy of what that all means for you and for me—forgiveness, life and salvation.

Things are going well on all fronts. James and Christel Neuendorf have joined our team in Santo Domingo. We're still getting organized and working on our strategic plan and division of responsibilities here.



Installation of James and Christel Neuendorf.

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Fritsche . . .

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We have worship twice a month at our new mission, but have also added weekly Bible study in the local park across from the mission site. We're making plans for outreach to children as over one hundred kids are in that same park each afternoon after school. We've had two theological intensive weekend courses in the past several weeks for not only our pastoral and deaconess students, but also for church members.

In January, members from all of our churches gathered as Deaconess Sandra Rhein from Indiana led a course on worship and liturgy. We have also had several more baptisms at Las Americas and the start of a new confirmation class. Recently, there were three babies in worship with their moms, all needing to be baptized. Thanks be to God for such awesome opportunities!



We learned a few weeks ago that the owner of our current house in Santo Domingo would like to rent it to a family member, so we've been on the hunt for a new place. Since rent houses are hard to come by in our area, we focused

our search on apartments. In a couple of weeks we'll be moving to an 8th floor apartment. We're sad to lose the house, but have some great trade-offs in our new apartment. The boys have been doing well in school. Viktor has brought home awards in both math and speech.

A blessed Lent to you all. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Please pray for:

- The Warren and Preus families who are expecting babies. Both are in the states due to the threat of the Zika virus in our region.
- God's blessings on our outreach plans for our new mission.
- Our new confirmation class which began in February in Las Americas.

To support our work financially, 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

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.

~Rev. Joel Fritsche

[See the entire newsletter at <https://www.scribd.com/doc/299471756/Fritsche-Mission-Newsletter-February-2016>]

Immanuel Lutheran Church - March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ECE Book Fair March 2nd-11th		1 All Boards @ 7:00 pm	2 Women's Bible Study @ 10:30 am <i>Usher Team #4</i> Midweek Lent Worship @ 7:00 pm Unveil Fellowship @ 6:00-9:00 pm	3 Bingo @ 1:00-3:00pm Bells @ 6:30 pm Choir @ 7:30 pm	4	5 ECE Book Fair Open to the Community 10:00 am-4:00 pm Unveil Setup @ 11:00-1:00 pm
6 <i>Usher Team #5</i> Worship @ 9:00 am w/Communion Adult Bible Class and Sunday School Unveil Church @10:15 am <i>Social Sunday @ 11:15 am</i> <i>ECE Book Fair til 1:00 pm</i>	7 Bible Study @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm	8 Lutheran Men's Breakfast @ AAA restaurant @ 6:30 am Council Meeting & Naomi Meeting @ 7:00 pm	9 Schools ECE Grandparents' Day "Books and Brunch" 9:30-11:00 am Jr. Confirmation @ 4:30 <i>Usher Team #1</i> Midweek Lent Worship @ 7:00 pm	10 Week	11	12 Unveil Setup @ 11:00-1:00 pm Set clocks Forward One Hour before retiring
13 <i>Usher Team #2</i> Worship @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class and Sunday School Unveil Church @ 10:15 am	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Women's Bible Study @ 10:30 am Jr. Confirmation @ 4:30 pm <i>Usher Team #3</i> Midweek Lent Worship @ 7:00 pm	17 Hamburger Fry @ 11:00 am-1:00 pm Bells @ 6:30 pm Choir @ 7:30 pm	18	19 Unveil Setup @ 11:00-1:00 pm
20 <i>Usher Team #4</i> Palm Sunday Worship @ 9:00 am w/Communion Adult Bible Class and Sunday School Unveil Church @ 10:15 am	21 NO Evening Bible Study	22 Men's Breakfast @ AAA restaurant @ 6:30 am	23 Jr. Confirmation @ 4:30	24 Maundy Thursday <i>Usher Team #5</i> Worship Service @ 7:00 pm	25 Good Friday Offices Closed <i>Usher Team #1</i> Worship Service @ 7:00 pm	26 Community Easter Celebration @ 10:00 am Unveil Setup @ 11:00-1:00 pm
27 <i>Usher Team #2</i> Easter Sunrise Worship w/Communion @ 7:00 am Breakfast @ 8:30 am <i>Usher Team TBD</i> Worship @ 10:00 am (Non-Communion) Unveil Church @10:15am	28 Easter Monday Offices Closed	29 Voters Meeting @ 7:00 pm	30 Jr. Confirmation @ 4:30	31 NO Bells NO Choir		



Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Loving God ~ Loving Neighbors ~ Serving Others

Immanuel Lutheran Church

6th Annual Easter Celebration

Saturday, March 26th @ 10:00 a.m.

- *Crafts, Games, Fun Activities*
- *Refreshments*
- *Prizes for Everyone*

*Pictures with the
Easter Bunny!*

Easter Egg Hunt

- Over 2000 Eggs -

Community Welcome!

1440 Cortlandt St. Houston, TX 77008 / 713-864-2651