

# Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 6, No. 4

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

March 2017

## "Springtime Is For Lovers"

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." John 13:34*



February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Punxsutawney Phil took a timid look outside, got a glimpse of his shadow and headed back into hiding, signaling to the world that we would have six more weeks of winter and springtime would just have to wait. As I write this article I can hear the hum of the A/C. The grass is springing back to life, the leaves are emerging green and vibrant, and the mercury has risen to the mid 80's outside. Maybe it is actually springtime regardless of what some pampered rodent named Phil thinks... and we all know that spring is for lovers. At least according to the over 14 million hits I got when I Googled that phrase.

But seriously, it doesn't matter what time of year it is, LOVE is for the Body of Christ. Jesus did not command that we simply be polite. He didn't go on and on that we must dress appropriately when we go to church on Sundays. He didn't even command that we have a neat and tidy facility that is warm and inviting.

Jesus commanded that you love one another just as He loved you. You, me, and every other person that has ever lived is a sinner. We violate God's commandments and do things every day to stray from His path and put distance between Him and us. We consistently engage in thoughts, words, and deeds that absolutely break His heart...

Yet He loved you so much that He came to live a perfect life in your place so that you could receive not your own righteousness but instead could claim HIS righteousness. He didn't stop there. He also stepped up and took the sinner's death that you rightfully should have received



*(continued on page 2)*



## Remember When...

A.B. Kleb came to my office before Sunday worship time. In his hand he had a softball t-shirt with the patch on the sleeve, "City Church Champions." Immanuel's men's softball team was twice crowned City church softball champs. They twice advanced for a shot at the state title. What a time to remember and look at the past. Something to reminisce about.

Mr. Kleb asked if the Christmas carolers had visited the Wilson home. Mr. Dick Wilson played on that team also. What a thing to remember! I said, "Let me see if I can put together more information."

Information was hard to get; Dick Wilson, Albert Kleb, and Fred Cooper couldn't remember all the players. But they did remember these: Albert Kleb, Pitcher; Max Hengst or Henry Pearson, Catcher; Fred Cooper, 1<sup>st</sup> Base; Fred's brother, Second Base; Mel Kleb, Shortstop; Tony Kleb, Third Base; Roy Wunderlich, Outfield; and others. Otto Wagner was the Coach.

Congratulations to A.B. Kleb, who was inducted into the "Hall of Honor," something like the "Hall of Fame of Softball."

*~Pastor Claudio Perez*



## Lovers . . .

*(continued from page 1)*

and beat death for you so that it would not have an eternal hold on you. As St. Paul says in Romans 5:8, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Through His action, He has claimed you as His child and made you part of the One Holy Body that is His Church. You are a Christian – rescued, redeemed, and loved by Christ. But that's not what we hear Jesus preach over and over again. Yes, it is important. It is essential to your eternal salvation, but there is more.

He says that if you truly are His child you shall love others just as He has loved you. Just as He loved you even when you did not deserve it, He loved you enough to live, die, and rise victorious over death for you. That's how He loved you. Is that how you love your neighbor? Is that how you love your friends and family? Is that how you love your enemies? Is that how you love in His Church? Church is for lovers. Are you a lover?

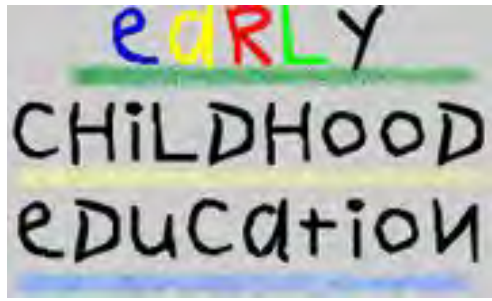
*~Pastor Jeffrey King*



### A Journey with Jesus

March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time of reflection on what Jesus has done for you and how this should change your life. This year we will be taking a journey with Jesus as told through the Gospel account of St. Matthew. Come join us each Wednesday at 7:00 pm in Lent as we reflect on how Jesus' journey and your journey intersect. God bless.

*~Pastor King*



The Trustees provide for maintenance of equipment and buildings. Much of the minor maintenance is performed by Mr. Nic Adams. Outside vendors are called when the work is beyond his knowledge.

~Max Bolen



We are glad to report we have temporary help from Becky Harvey, thank you! As we go into Lent, teams please be aware of your turn with mid-week services about to start. As always, we are looking for help; if interested contact me or Pastor King. All glory be to God.

~Mike Rivera

Who comes to mind when you think of someone important? When Jesus thinks of someone important, He thinks of you! The disciples did not understand that everyone is important to Jesus. When the children came to see Jesus to be blessed by Him, the disciples sent them away. They thought Jesus was too busy to be bothered by little children.

However, Jesus called the children to Him because He loved them and they were important to Him. Jesus loves us too; we are important to Him!

This is the love that each child learns about every day that they come to Immanuel Early Childhood Center.

Jesus said, "Let the little Children Come to Me." *Matthew 19:14*

~Cathy Swanstrom

## 2017-18 School Year Registration

We still have some classroom placements available. We offer 5-day programs and 2- and 3-day Mother's Day Out programs.

Immanuel accepts children who are 18 months to 4 years old. For more information, please call Connie at (713) 861-8787.

~Connie Meave

### Newsletter Contributors

Editor.....	Barbara Szalkowski
Contributors.....	Kathy Angst
.....	Rev. Keith Aschenbeck
.....	Max Bolen
.....	Lynn Eickemeyer
.....	Karen Evans
.....	Rev. Jeffrey King
.....	Winnie McNamara
.....	Connie Meave
.....	Pastor Claudio Perez
.....	Mike Rivera
.....	Diane Robinson
.....	Cathy Swanstrom
Graphic Design.....	Matthew Szalkowski

# Mus<sup>c</sup> Notes

## ***Upon the Cross Extended (TLH 171 and LSB 453)***

*I caused Thy grief and sighing  
By evils multiplying  
As countless as the sands.  
I caused the woes unnumbered  
With which Thy soul is cumbered,  
Thy sorrows raised by wicked hands.  
(TLH 171 st. 4)*

This is the fourth stanza of the hymn *Upon the Cross Extended* by Paul Gerhardt. Originally in 16 stanzas, only 12 stanzas made it into *The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)* and only 7 stanzas into *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)*.

This hymn was undoubtedly written while Gerhardt was a student at Wittenberg University near the end of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) and it appeared in Cruger's *Praxis pietatis melica* in Berlin in 1648. He calls the suffering world, of which he is a part, to the cross and to repentance. J.S. Bach used the hymn stanza above along with another stanza (not appearing in our hymnals) in his *St. Matthew Passion* and *St. John Passion*.

*The load Thou takest on Thee,  
That pressed so sorely on me,  
It crushed me to the ground.  
The cross for me enduring,  
The crown for me securing,  
My healing in Thy wounds is found.  
(TLH 171 st. 6)*

The tune usually associated with this hymn is *O Welt, it muss dich lassen* by Heinrich Isaac (c. 1450-1517). Isaac was a Netherlander, a prolific composer, and court organist and director of music for Lorenzo de'Medici and later Emperor Maximilian I.

Martin Luther admired and often performed Isaac's music in his home. Isaac taught music to Lorenzo's sons, and it is interesting that one of the sons later became Pope Leo X, who excommunicated Martin Luther from the Catholic Church.

J.S. Bach evidently was fond of this tune because he used the melody in the *St. Matthew Passion* and *St. John Passion*, Cantatas 13, 44, and 97, and included four different harmonizations in the *Choralegesange*. In *Lutheran Service Book* this melody is also used for the hymns *Arise and Shine in Splendor*, and *Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow*.

*A crown of thorns Thou nearest,  
My shame and scorn Thou nearest,  
That I might ransomed be.  
My Bondsman ever willing,  
My place with patience filling,  
From sin and guilt has made me free.  
(TLH 171 st. 7)*

The three stanzas shown here were taken by the Lutheran composer Paul Manz (1919-2009) and arranged as a choral anthem with an original melody by the composer. Manz carefully crafted the music to reflect the meaning of the words. Immanuel's Adult Choir will be singing this anthem on Good Friday.

*(continued on page 5)*



## Focus on Stewardship

Lent is a season of repentant joy. There is joy in repentance because in repentance, God, through His Word, turns us away from our sins — our failures of thought, word, and deed — to believe in the forgiveness and new life He has accomplished for us in the death and resurrection of His Son. For our God is our Father, and fathers discipline their children. He loves us enough to point out when and where we have erred, so that we are not weighed down by false belief, despair, and other great shame or vice.

Thus we do well to listen to God's Word, His own teaching, about giving. St. Paul exhorts: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (*Gal. 6:6*). This means that the local congregation is primary. In other words, everything else that we might give to during the year — laudable and worthy charities — are to be on top of what we give to our local congregation. *For the local congregation is the place that serves us with the gifts of Christ's death and resurrection.* The local congregation is where our spiritual needs are met when Christ's atonement is preached, when the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, when we were baptized into the name of the Triune God, and when we partake of the body and blood of the risen and living Lamb of God.

But how much are we to give to this local congregation? His instructions are these: to give regularly (*1 Cor. 6:1–2*), proportionally (*1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12*), and generously (*2 Cor. 8:20*) of our first fruits (*Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30*) with a spirit of eagerness (*2 Cor. 9:2*), earnestness (*2 Cor. 8:7*), cheerfulness (*2 Cor. 9:7*), and love (*2 Cor. 8:23*).

Thus, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give it regularly, whenever we have income. We set it aside beforehand, before anything else is spent. From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. Tithing was a command for them. St. Paul never mentions a tithe. Since a tithe was the bare minimum for the people of Israel in the

*(continued on page 6)*

## Music Notes . . .

*(continued from page 4)*

The use of the pronoun "I" makes this a very personal confession of myself as the cause of Christ's suffering and death. Yet there is also gospel comfort that "My healing in Thy wounds is found" and "From sin and guilt [He] has made me free." In this Lenten season may we all confess our guilt for our sin, and rejoice in our forgiveness and salvation in Christ.

*Information for this article was taken from Lutheran Worship: Hymnal Companion, Fred L. Precht, CPH 1992, Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship, Marilyn K. Stulken, Fortress Press, 1981, and The Lutheran Hymnal, CPH, 1941.*

*~Diane Robinson*



# Stewardship . . .

*(continued from page 5)*

Old Testament, perhaps St. Paul had more in mind. That aside, however, ten percent is an easy way to figure out an amount. You simply move your weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly income one decimal point to the left. And that's it. That's what you put in the offering plate to support your local congregation so that you may continue to be a hearer of God's word by sharing all good things with those who teach it to you.

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive *(Acts 20:35)*.

In repentant joy, then, do we hear God's Word on giving, and we let that Word dwell in us richly. We let that word wash over our ears and seep into our hearts, to turn us away from our own selfish desires and turn toward Him in faith and love. We love the Lord and His Word. And we desire to do it. And when we have failed, that Word reproves and corrects, forgives and consoles. It calls us back to Him who is our God, our Savior, our Father.

*(Stewardship newsletter insert for March 2017, provided on the LCMS website <https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4504>)*

*~submitted by Kathy Angst*



## Upcoming Events in March

- Sunday, March 5     Choir concert 3:00 pm  
(home concert for the choir tour)
- Friday, March 24     Band festival concert  
(multiple schools)  
6:30 pm
- Friday, March 31     Gala 5:30 pm  
The Pavillion on Gessner

## Make Plans to Attend the Spring Musical



### Matinees for senior citizens and children

Thursday, April 27, 9:00 am and 12:30 pm

### Evening performances

Friday, April 28 & Saturday, April 29, 7:00 pm

Reserved seats may be purchased in advance

For athletic events and additional information  
<http://www.lutheranhighnorth.org>  
or call 713-880-3131.

*~Lynn Eickemeyer*

# Alaska Ministry

*[Excerpt of an email sent January 20, 2017]*

Dear Friends in Christ,

We pray that you had a blessed holiday season and a joyous beginning to 2017. We were blessed to spend some time down in Texas with family and also visiting a few churches to give updates on all that is happening here in Alaska. Stacey and the kids only had a few days in Texas before returning to Alaska for school. They spent two weeks in some of the more brutal weather we have had this season without me. I cannot say that I was too disappointed to be enjoying temperatures in the 60s-70s most of that time. The family managed wonderfully without me. Makes me wonder how much they really need me! But, they were glad to have me home.

Christmas in Tanacross was a wonderful time. This year, thanks to folks from Christ the King in Coeur D'Alene, ID, we were blessed to deliver 24 chicken dinners, 30 Christmas gifts, and 30 treat bags to the folks of Tanacross. It was amazing to see how God used those gifts to open doors for ministry to take place. We also had packed church for the Christmas Eve Candlelight service with more than 70 people attending.

We continue to find Alaska a challenging place to live and do ministry, but every day we grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God and his mercy. We have learned so much about God and ourselves and he continues to use us to shine his light into a dark world.

Please keep the Native Athabascan people in your prayers. In Tanacross alone we had two deaths the week before Christmas and in

surrounding villages there have been three deaths attributed to drug overdose in the last couple months. Even though Native villages may be hundreds of miles apart they remain tight knit communities which are all affected by any death or difficulty. They truly feel the hurt and pain experienced in their sister villages as if it was their own.

Blessings and Peace be with you in Christ,

*~Rev. Keith Aschenbeck & Family*

The Alaska Mission for Christ's February 2017 newsletter is available on the ministry's website <https://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org/s/February2017EmailUpdate.pdf>

The Aschenbeck's 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](mailto:revkeithamc@gmail.com)

Address: 537 Mushers Way  
Tok, AK 99780-0537

You can also support the Alaska Mission for Christ via Thrivent Choice Dollars <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/> and Amazon.com's Smile program <http://smile.amazon.com>

# March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>MH = Miertschin Hall</b>		<b>1 Ash Wednesday</b> ECE Scholastic Book Fair (MH) ECE Chapel 9:30 am Bible Study 10:00 am Usher Team #2 Worship Service w/ Imposition of Ashes & Communion @ 7:00 pm	<b>2 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm</b> ECE Scholastic Book Fair (MH) FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball 6–9:00 pm Unveil Lutheran Discipleship @ 6:30–8:00 pm Bells @ 6:30 pm Choir @ 7:30 pm	<b>3</b> ECE Scholastic Book Fair (MH)  Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	<b>4</b> ECE Scholastic Book Fair 10:00 am–3:00 pm (MH)
<b>5 Usher Team #3</b> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am Social Sunday Lunch & ECE Book Fair @ 11:30–1:00 pm	<b>6</b> ECE Scholastic Book Fair (MH) Young Life Club Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00 pm	<b>7 ECE Book Fair</b> FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Glocal Mission Catalyst Core Youth Rm @ 10:00am–1:00pm All Boards @ 7:00 pm	<b>8 ECE Book Fair</b> ECE Chapel 9:30 am Grandparents' Day Glocal Bible Institute Youth Room @ 7:00–10:00 pm Usher Team #4 Worship Service @ 7:00 pm	<b>9</b> ECE Scholastic Book Fair (MH) FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball 6–9:00 pm Unveil Lutheran Discipleship @ 6:30–8:00 pm Bells @ 6:30 pm Choir @ 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> ECE Scholastic Book Fair (MH)  Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Usher Team #5 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	<b>13</b> Young Life Club Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm	<b>14</b> FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Glocal Mission Catalyst Core Youth Rm @ 10:00–1:00 pm Naomi Meeting @ 10:00 am	<b>15</b> ECE Chapel 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am Glocal Bible Institute Youth Room @ 7:00 – 10:00 pm Usher Team #1 Worship Service @ 7:00 pm	<b>16 FOD Work Day (MH)</b> @ 10:00–1:30 pm Hamburger Fry @ 11:00–1:00 pm Men's Basketball 6–9:00 pm Unveil Lutheran Discipleship @ 6:30–8:00 pm Bells @ 6:30 pm Choir @ 7:30 pm	<b>17</b>  Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Usher Team #2</b> Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	<b>20</b> Young Life Club Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00 pm	<b>21</b> FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm  Glocal Mission Catalyst Core Youth Rm @ 10:00–1:00 pm	<b>22</b> ECE Chapel 9:30 am Glocal Bible Institute Youth Room @ 7:00–10:00 pm Usher Team #3 Worship Service @ 7:00 pm	<b>23 FOD Work Day (MH)</b> @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball 6–9:00 pm Unveil Lutheran Discipleship @ 6:30–8:00 pm Bells @ 6:30 pm Choir @ 7:30 pm	<b>24</b>  Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Usher Team #4 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	<b>27</b> Young Life Club Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm Glocal Mission Youth Room In evening	<b>28 FOD Work Day (MH)</b> @ 10:00–1:30 pm  Glocal Mission Catalyst Core Youth Rm @ 10:00–1:00 pm	<b>29</b> ECE Chapel 9:30 am Glocal Bible Institute Youth Room @ 7:00–10:00 pm Usher Team #5 Worship Service @ 7:00 pm	<b>30 FOD Work Day (MH)</b> @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball 6–9:00 pm Unveil Lutheran Discipleship @ 6:30–8:00 pm Bells @ 6:30 pm Choir @ 7:30 pm	<b>31 Harvard Wedding Rehearsal @ 5:00 pm (Sanctuary)</b> Pastor Ralph Hobratschk/Hope Lutheran Church Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	<b>1</b> Harvard Wedding @ 11:00 am Pastor Ralph Hobratschk Hope Lutheran  FOD Dance (MH) @ 4:00–9:00 pm





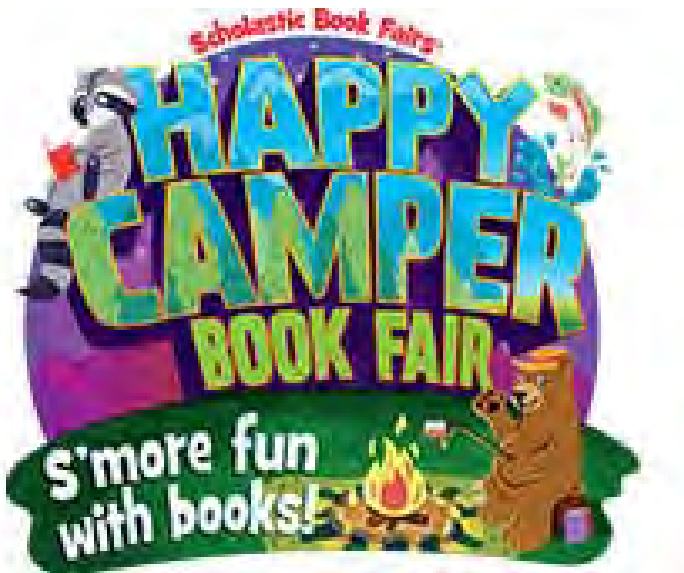
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
306 E 15th St  
Houston, TX 77008

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

**Return Service Requested**

To the Family of:

*Loving God ~ Loving Neighbors ~ Serving Others*



**Social Sunday  
Lunch**  
*(Free will offering)*  
and  
**ECE Scholastic  
Book Fair**

**Sunday March 5**

**11:30am-1:00pm**