

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 6, No. 9

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

August 2017

Stewardship – Contentment



In the 9th and 10th Commandments, God warns us that His people have no need to covet. He reminds us that we do not provide that which we need. HE DOES. These two Commandments could be summarized by simply seeing that God is protecting His gracious gift of contentment. **Contentment** is this: understanding that God is truly providing for **everything** we need in **all** situations.

Most of us would readily and heartily agree to this statement. But do we really live it out? True contentment – Wow. I'm going to live my everyday life as if God has ALL things handled; the big things as well as the small ones. I'm going to trust that His good and gracious will is being carried out even when I cannot see ANY possible good result. That's a tall order. Jesus commended those who believe without seeing. (John 20:29) Do we do the same?

Most of us have an easier time placing our eternal salvation in God's hands, because we can't see eternity and we can't see any other choice. The details and decisions of today can be quite different. The car payment. The strained relationship. The latest problem at church. How stable is my job? These are situations many of us unintentionally, but regularly fight God for control. When we do this we demonstrate a lack of contentment. A lack of trust in God's providential and complete care that He has promised to give.

Yes, I promised more articles of Biblical Stewardship. This is one of those articles. Take a fresh look at your daily life. Your daily worries. Are you trusting in God's promises for the things of today or just the eternity of tomorrow? The stewardship challenge for this month is I want you to practice praying, "Thy will be done." When you don't understand. When you disagree. When you feel utterly lost or out of control. When you don't understand the actions or motivations of those around you... "Thy will be done."

"The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also." – Martin Luther, *Small Catechism*, 3rd Petition of the Lord's Prayer.

~Blessings, Pastor King



Boy Scout Troop #72

In the late 1960s or early 1970s, Immanuel had another scout troop. Master Scout Leader Phil Lee was one of the adults who held devotions on a daily basis. The 70 youth met weekly, and went on camping trips. They traveled by bus and pulled a flatbed trailer carrying their equipment.

The Troop was divided into three groups and each group had assigned tasks. Each scout had a duffle bag to carry their clothes and toiletries. Each scout was trained to put up the tents and get the fires burning for hot meals. Each trip cost three dollars. Their biggest challenge was purchasing the buses. They held fund raisers, solicited donations, and at the Annual Church picnic, the concession sales were given to the scouts.

Among the adult helpers were Phil Lee, Head Scout Master, Don Kaiser, Ed Eckert, Ed Walther, Al Hempel and others. They drove the buses, did bed checks in the evenings, and many other tasks. All the boys were self-disciplined, none of the adults recall having any trouble with the scouts.

They had many interesting trips outside of Houston; Aransas Pass, a National Wild Refuge, was a favorite. Other destinations included the Indian Reservation near Livingston and the Boy Scout Camp Strait, but the military base at Fort Hood was an adventure to remember.



Most of the scouts arrived in the early evening, set up tents and waited for the morning. It started raining – the rains came down, water came into their tents – it was a night they will

never forget. But in the morning, a soldier brought good news. He came to offer bunk beds at an empty cabin. They all were able to sleep, and had mattresses to sleep on. The next day they enjoyed a tour of the military motor vehicles – tanks, jeeps, heavy artillery, etc.

They had many other adventures; one was going to Mississippi when the temperatures were freezing, all the faucets outdoors had icicles that froze the water. All of the scouts were freezing – it was an outing they would never to forget.

~Pastor Perez

Editor's note. In the June-July issue, this historic photo of the Hamburger Fry at Bethlehem was supposed to be included with Pastor's article, but was inadvertently omitted. The Editor regrets the error.





Focus on Stewardship

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten, and more by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. And so, it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives—our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question—How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others—to

asking the question—what have they done for me lately. We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we have more because when we give we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus we are reflecting the divine nature. As Jesus said “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

(Stewardship newsletter insert for August 2017, from the LCMS website <https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4699>)

~submitted by Kathy Angst



Join us every Sunday morning
downstairs (below the Gym)!
10:30–11:30 am

Focusing on Jesus!
Singing to Jesus!
Doing activities
with our Christian friends!

*“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*

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



This week our Preschoolers learned all about OUTER SPACE!! They learned about astronauts and what they do, the planets, and everything that makes up our Milky Way Galaxy. Each child was able to make their very own "Galaxy in a Jar". They explored the parts that make up the galaxy, and now know more about the amazing world that God has created for us to live in!



~Audrey Cooper, Tyler Tate, and Connie Meave

Music Notes



President Ken Harvey recognizes Diane Robinson's five years of service at a reception in June.

Thank you to all our friends at Immanuel for the lovely retirement reception you gave me in June. It has been a blessing to work with you and together make music to the Lord. You have been my friends and family for 5 years, and I thank the Lord for the time we worked together. Joel and I know it is right to move closer to family at this time in our lives, but we leave a piece of our heart with you. God bless and keep you all!

~Joel and Diane Robinson



Immanuel is seeking a new permanent musician to serve as organist and also, if possible, as choir director and/or handbell choir director. If you would like to submit any names to the search committee for consideration, please call or email the church office:

(713) 864-2651

churchsecretary@immanuelhouston.org



1 Timothy 4:12



Confirmation Dinner

Saturday, June 3, 2017
Confirmands shared with
Family and Church Leadership
their Faith Statements



John 1:12



Psalms 28:7



Confirmation Day w/ Reception

Sunday, June 4, 2017
Cameron Whitener, Lane Hairgrove, and Savannah Ortiz
God Bless Your Walk With Him!

2017 Summer Family Fellowship "God Will Provide"



Delicious hamburgers on Tuesday and yummy pizza with salad on Thursday!

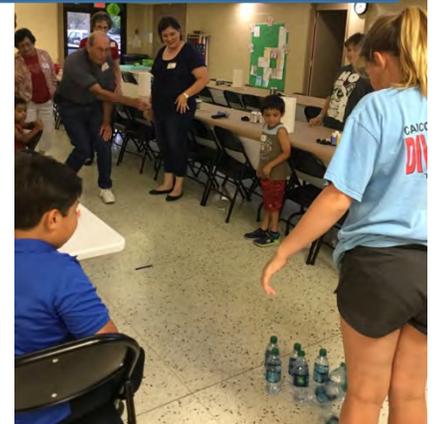


Singing Praises to God, Young and Old Devotions by Pastor Perez



Over **87** people from Immanuel, Unveil and the Early Childhood came together for 2 great nights of food, fun and fellowship.

"Spare for Lonnie" Bowling with a Coconut



Taking turns, Coloring Joseph's Coat on Their Heads



GAMES

Blindly moving ping pong balls from bowl to bowl



Joseph's Coat of Many Colors

MORE GAMES



Gathering the Lost Sheep (White Balloons)



Moving Sheep (Marshmallows) from plate to table with a straw.

Everyone showed their artistic ability by painting their own flower pot on Tuesday. On Thursday, the pots were dry and a blooming plant was added.



CRAFTS

Community coloring project
done by all ages.
"Jesus and the Little Children"



Bibles were highlighted on special passages
so that they could be shared
with those who don't know Jesus.



Thank you to everyone
who came, hope to see you again!

Thank you to those who helped with the event.
Food-Winnie McNamara and Karen Evans, Songs-Cathy Swanstrom,
Devotions-Pastor Perez, Games-Julie King and Carolyn Breithaupt,
Bibles-Pastor King, Crafts-Jessie and Phil Nelson.

Mission Report: Los Schullers for God in Puerto Rico



*[Excerpts from
the Schuller's
June 2017 email
newsletter.]*

Approaching the Mall del Sur, I let the policeman on a motorcycle into knotted, congested and sluggish morning traffic. He waved. Inside the Mall, the lady that sold jewelry, tightened my little crucifix so it would not fall off as in the morning. "Did you know we are planting a Lutheran Church in Ponce?" (Where is it?) "I'll let you know when we have the opening. Would you be interested in coming?" An affirmative nod. "Gracias." Then, speaking with the huge coffee man, asking if he knew where in the Bible it speaks about making "café"? He giggled at the "He brews." And that is how our evangelism starts, one by one, corner by corner, person by person.

Passing the plaza, we hand out fliers for 50 points of the Holy Spirit's work. "This is for me to keep?" was the inquiry. "Yes" "We believe strongly in the spirit". "This is the Holy Spirit of God", I said. For "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved". *Rom. 10:13.*

The little city was born on the hills and below in Spanish-revival architecture. The walls, brick and stucco, reflected the Indian pyramids which have disappeared into thin air.

But we still have the Holy Spirit, who continues to gather his church, around trees, in plazas, malls, markets, cathedrals and churches.

How God works...When doing water aerobics, we see forty to fifty familiar faces, who we pray with twice a week. At the Plaza del Caribe, eight people greeted me; familiar faces, from Salmos y Café. Gema is now mall walking at 5:00 a.m. with a regular group. The finca owner comes and sits at the table in La Terraza, the food court; then his 2 daughters, then a friend. From concerts to malls, museums, swimming pools, musicians, markets, stores, basketball and neighbors, we are reaching out in Jesus name. The Holy Spirit will use our words connected with His word.

*~Rev. Richard & Gema Schuller
Missionaries to Ponce Puerto Rico*

Additional information about the Schuller's ministry is on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LosSchullersforGodinPuertoRico/>

To support the LCMS through the work of Richard Schuller, you may 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>

Mission Report: The Fritsche Family: A La Republica Dominicana

[Excerpts from the Frische's June 2017 newsletter. See the full issue on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/lcmsfritsche/>]



Greetings in the name of Jesus from the Dominican Republic! After two and a half months of home service and almost constant traveling, the Fritsche family is back in the Dominican Republic.

Our first Sunday back, we celebrated the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. Currently the deaconess class at Amigos de Cristo is studying the Augsburg Confession. Joel preached on the parable of the great banquet and tied in the history of what took place at Augsburg in 1530. As the German princes presented their confession before the emperor, they did so ready to forsake all, even their very lives for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They confessed their faith not only for themselves, but for their families, for the coming generations, and even for you. In that respect, confession is mission. The goal is that all may know Jesus Christ, believe in Him and

have life in His name, that we all may celebrate together in the Great Banquet, the eternal feast of the Lamb in his Kingdom that has no end!

We are working on finding what our new "normal" is. We essentially live in two cities now. Joel, as Director of the new Mercy Center and Seminary, needs to spend significant time in Santiago, but he is also continuing to serve as a church planter in Santo Domingo. Thankfully, housing costs are very reasonable, so we are able to have living space in Santiago and Santo Domingo. Clarion and the boys have the option of spending time in Santiago, enjoying the larger missionary community available there, or staying in Santo Domingo to enjoy a bit more stability as they begin a new year of homeschooling. Either way, the Lord is blessing us as we jump back into things.

The seminary faculty, along with numerous DR missionaries accomplished a ton in our absence. In these next two months leading up to the opening of the seminary on August 20, we will be completing the visa process for our 11 incoming students, renting apartments for married students, finalizing meals and housing arrangements for single students, furnishing seminary classrooms, offices and space in the mercy center.

The academic plan and schedule is being finalized. We are working on providing an energy infrastructure utilizing solar technology. We are also working on building a library. We have a rather large digital library, but as part of our accreditation plan, we will be required to have a physical library with a certain number of volumes.

(continued on page 11)

Fritsche Family . . .

(continued from page 10)

We are blessed to be serving our Lord in the Dominican Republic. The Lord is blessing the preaching of His Word and the administration of His sacraments. We are grateful for your partnership in this work. God bless you all!

*In Christ,
Rev. Joel & Clarion Fritsche,
Viktor, Sergei and Andrei*

The Fritsches' work in the Dominican Republic is featured in a detailed article in the summer 2017 issue of *Lutherans Engage the World*. You can read the article online at:

<https://engage.lcms.org/santo-domingo-and-beyond-summer-2017/>



The Fritsches have a new support/prayer card: http://prayercards.lcms.org/Fritsche_DR_April%2017.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.



The Aschenbeck 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.

You can also support the Alaska Mission for Christ via

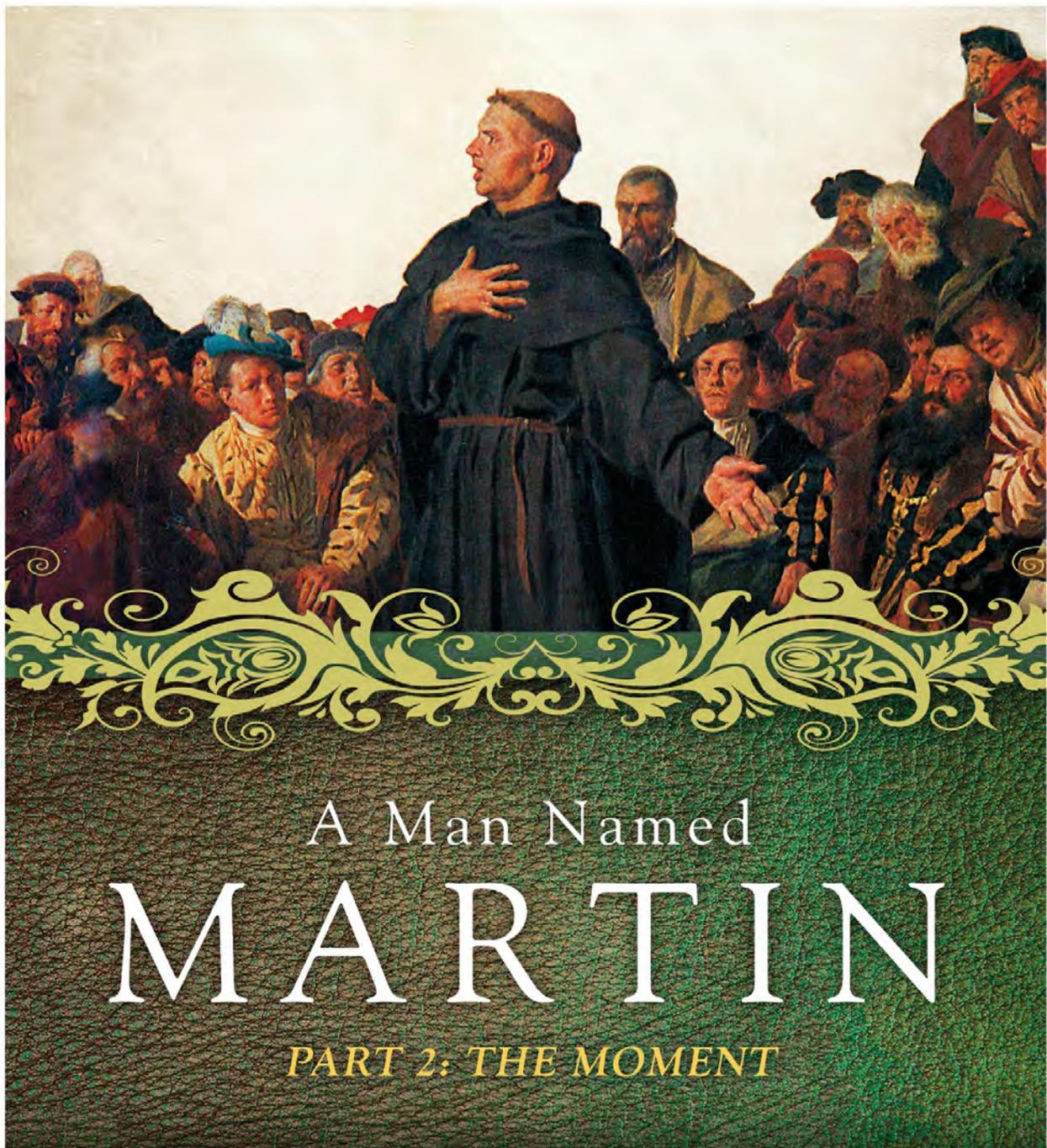
Thrivent Choice Dollars

<https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>

OR

Amazon.com's Smile program

<http://smile.amazon.com>



A Man Named
MARTIN

PART 2: THE MOMENT

A Man Named Martin—Part 2: The Moment examines the errant teachings and wayward traditions of the late Medieval Church that eventually sparked the Protestant Reformation, a theological overhaul set in motion most notably by Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 *Theses* to the church door at Wittenberg.

Sundays in August

Adult Bible Class 10:30 - 11:30





“JESUS LOVES ME”

Devotion, Songs and Activities
For Everyone

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 2017
10:30 a.m. in Miertschin Hall

Followed by Lunch at 11:45 a.m.
Barbecue Sandwiches, Potato Salad, Chips and Dessert

**Join Us for a
Sunday Morning of
Inspiration and Fellowship!**





Immanuel Lutheran Church – August 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(MH) Miertschin Hall	1	2	3	4	5	
6 Usher Team #2 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	7 Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00 pm Unveil Lutheran Church Basketball @ 6:00–8:00 pm	8 Naomi Meeting @ 10:00 am (MH) FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	9 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	10 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	11 Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm Decorate FOD @ 5:30–8:00pm	12 Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm FOD Dance @ 4:00–9:00 pm
13 Usher Team #3 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	14 ECE Closed – Teacher In-service Unveil Lutheran Church Basketball @ 6:00–8:00 pm	15 ECE Closed – Teacher In-service FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	16 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am 1 st Day of ECE 5 Day Program & 3 Day MDO	17 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm 1 st Day of MDO Tues. & Thurs. Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	18 Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	19
20 Usher Team #4 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am Altar Guild Meeting After Bible Class	21 Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00 pm Unveil Lutheran Church Basketball @ 6:00–8:00 pm	22 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	23	24 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	25	26
27 Usher Team #5 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Rally Day (for Everyone) @ 10:30 am Lunch @ 11:45 am	28 Unveil Lutheran Church Basketball @ 6:00–8:00 pm	29 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	30	31 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm		



500FORWARD

**Celebrating the 500th anniversary
of the Lutheran Reformation**

**IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT JESUS
OCTOBER 28-29 HOUSTON, TEXAS**

**It's not often we get the chance to experience the
500th anniversary of something--so let's celebrate!**

500FORWARD Festival

October 28 // 10 am - 3 pm

St. Mark Lutheran Church

1515 Hillendahl 77055

500FORWARD Concert

October 29 // 2:30 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

800 Houston Avenue 77007

FESTIVAL FEATURES

- + Musical Performances**
- + Art Displays**
- + Worship Opportunities**
- + Interactive Stations for Kids**
- + Food Vendors**
- + Lutheran Ministry Booths**

CLOSING CONCERT

**In addition to highlighting the musical heritage of the Lutheran
church over the centuries, this event will present the results
of the 500Forward challenge as part of the offering.**

500FORWARD.ORG



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

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NORTH HOUSTON,
TEXAS

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Loving God ~ Loving Neighbors ~ Serving Others



Sunday, August 27th • 10:30 a.m.

Everyone Welcome!

For Details, See Enclosed Flyer