

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

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<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

November 2017

I have been spending quite a bit of time during the past few months reflecting on the themes of the Reformation – namely *Faith Alone*. One of the sermons I prepared last month was deeply inspired by the words in a devotion my father wrote shortly before the Lord called him home. My father's words have given me comfort, strength, and guidance many times over the years. I would like to share these choice words of his with you in hope that they may do the same for you.



~Pastor Jeffrey King

Let Go – And Let God

If you're old enough, you may remember the World War II book, *God is my Co-Pilot* by Gen. Robert Scott, Jr. or the popular movie based on that book. Think about the implications of that phrase. Does it apply to your life? . . . It might surprise you to learn that if it does reflect the nature of our life, you're most likely in trouble!

Are there things that cause you to worry? You think and think about them and become frustrated that there seems to be little or nothing you can do to make things better. Dwelling on them wears you down and causes more discomfort. Perhaps they seem to be growing bigger. You're losing sleep over them. You're on a treadmill to nowhere. . . What's the solution? Is there one?

There *is* a solution, and it is to put **God** in the pilot's seat. Don't rely primarily on your own judgment for guidance. Back off. Redirect your focus onto God, not the things that worry you. He will then either take care of your problems or show you how to deal with them. We all have problems in this life, some of them very serious, but please realize that the only really good way to approach them is to let God, with His wonderful power and great compassion, lead you to the best possible solutions. Relax, have confidence, and let go – and let God!

Ponder the words of the psalmist (*Ps. 91: 1-4*) and think about the comfort that is yours when you open yourself to receive the loving grace of God:

(continued on page 3)



Observing ECE Classrooms and Teachers

The Sunday we installed our ECE teachers was an eye-opener. We have a large ECE staff and I need to know them and the children they teach. The best way is to do this is to visit the classrooms, so after Chapel one Wednesday in October, I



visited Estela Machuca's Toddler class. She has two aides, Miss April and Miss Naomi. Miss Estela's class has 18 students, but they come in at different times.

The eight children in attendance were led through Spanish nurse rhymes, using hand and body motions. I sang along because these songs were ones I learned as a child.

I watched the children in the play room where they could play with anything they wanted. There were bulletin boards posted with children's art and a calendar of upcoming events.

During this tour of the classrooms, I learned that the children were reminded to put each toy back in its place, and that clothing and other personal things belong in each child's cubby hole.

It was a learning experience, and the teachers were glad to have me visit, and how beautiful it was to have the children all waving good-bye to me.

On Thursday, October 12th, I returned to the ECE to observe Winnie McNamara's Toddler class. Everyone knows Miss Winnie and how much she loves children. I often visit her class. I was



surprised because all the children were going to have chapel. Miss Winnie said they now hold chapel for the parents who can't come on Wednesdays. The Toddler group was joined by Randi Budwit and her Two's class, and aide Paloma Rey. The children marched behind their teacher to the church. Miss Randi led the singing and the devotion message was "God knows the number of hairs on our head."

Miss Winnie's classroom is brightly painted and all the furniture is child-sized. The children were cutting out decorations from construction paper. One girl called it a Christmas tree. I left the classroom and visited the other Toddler classroom. It is wonderful how the teachers work as a team and when they break up the group into smaller groups, each teacher uses the talents that God has given her.

My visit was enjoyable and I ask God to continue blessing the wonderful teachers and aides.

Do you have some free time? Why not come and visit? Read to a group of children, watch over them at play time, give encouragement to the children and teachers. You can start getting to know the staff and teachers by visiting the Immanuel website <http://immanuelhouston.org/staff/>

~Pastor Perez



Let God . . .

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

Surely He will save you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge;

His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Let go – and let God!

~Earl King



Focus on Stewardship

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by the His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise, and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are

gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as "good stewards of His varied grace," (1 Peter 4:10) we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as an offering. Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also offerings to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies, share with our family, neighbors, and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

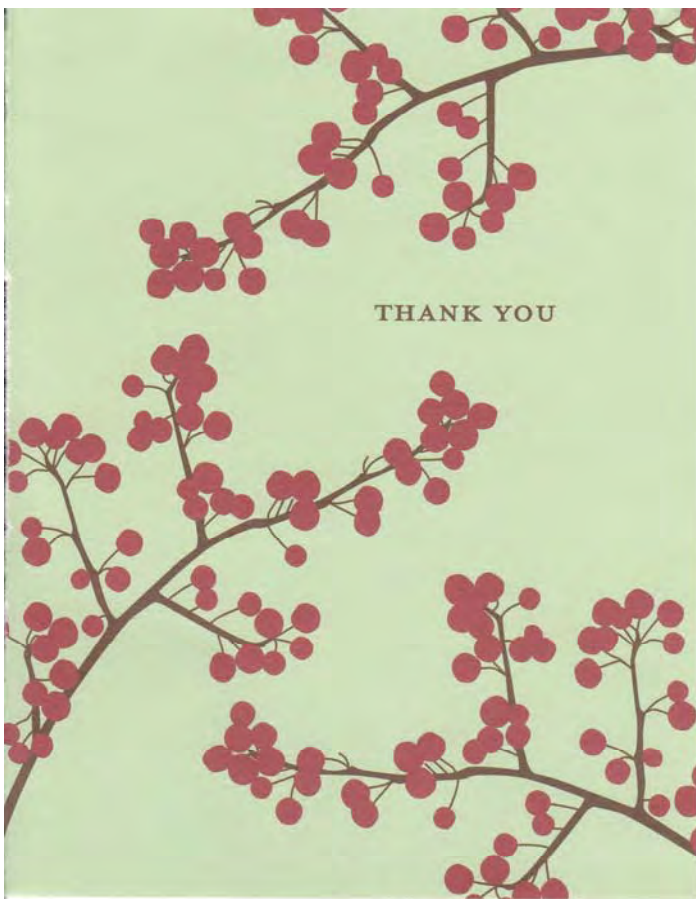
As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. "For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance." (Matthew 13:12).

(Stewardship newsletter insert for November 2017, from the LCMS website <https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4814>)

~submitted by Kathy Angst

Notes of Thanks

These thank you notes were received by the Immanuel church office from member, Dora Schulle, and from Jason Miller, the brother of ECE Teacher Audrey Cooper, for the assistance and support each received from the Immanuel community after Hurricane Harvey flooded their homes.



October, 2017

Dear Immanuel
Church Members,
It is with sincere
and deep appreciation
that I write this note
to thank you for your
care and support which
you gave me after
Harvey flooded my
home.

Sincerely,
Dora Schulle

Thank
You

Thankyou for the backpacks, supplies,
and clothes. And, thankyou for your
generous cash donation. We are
forever grateful to Immanuel
Lutheran Church for outpouring these
blessings to our family.

God's Blessings,
Jason, Rebecca, and
family



"Love is in the Air"

This saying may sound silly but during the month of October, the Sunday School class has been focused on "Love". We have learned that God loved us first and continues to love us no matter what. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus who died on the cross for our sins in our place. We have focused on staying rooted in Christ, loving everyone and learning how to show that love to our families, friends and surrounding community.

As an extension of our "Love" projects, the Sunday school will be participating in "Operation Christmas Child". With your help, our goal is to make 20 Christmas Shoeboxes for children outside of our community.



Items needed are listed on the ornaments on the Christmas tree display in the church narthex. Purchase the items, bring them back to church and put them under the tree or in the church office. All items are needed by Sunday, November 12th. Hope you will consider a donation.

Celebration Luncheon

Sponsored by the Sunday School
Sunday, November 12th at 11:45 am
Barbecue Brisket, sides, dessert and drink
Join us as we celebrate children!



"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



Advent: Jesus is the Light of the World

This year's midweek Advent services (Wednesdays, 7:00 pm) will focus on "Light." We welcome everyone to use these services to prepare their hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

December 6: Put On the Light!

December 13: Many Lights Are Brighter—
Together!

December 20: A Light with a Special Purpose!

Christmas Eve, December 24
(7:00 pm):
The Brightest Light!



Christmas Day, December 25
(9:00 am):
The Life in the Light

~Pastor King



Greetings and great news – we have two new ushers, Mr. Robert Boyd will be on team #4, and Mr. Lane Hairgrove on team #3. Let them know you appreciate their service.

~God's Blessings,
Mike Rivera



ECE families and Immanuel congregation are invited to donate to these joint projects:

Collecting gently used toys and canned fruit for the Heights Interfaith Ministries (HIM) Food Pantry during November.

6th Annual HAWC Gift Project

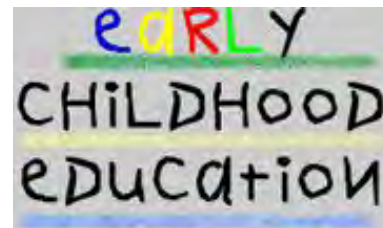
The Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC) project this year will be accepting donations beginning November 1st through December 5th.

This year's project will be small gift bags for children ages 11-17. Our goal is to make 100 boy bags and 50 girl bags of the 400 bags that are needed. The Women's Center will be providing a \$25 gift card to go with each bag.

We will be accepting donated toys and our cash donation goal this year is \$5,000.00. The children receiving these gift bags are almost all from impoverished families and it could be the only gift they receive. All these children have been the victims of or witnesses to crimes, many of them violent.

~Winnie McNamara

The Thanksgiving Feast for all ECE families will be held Saturday, November 11, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.



Details will be sent home in the children's folders.

~Connie Meave

Mission Report: Los Schullers for God in Puerto Rico



*[Excerpts from
the Schuller's
Aug.-Sept. 2017
email newsletter.]*

Miniature men working on an elevated pillar scurry like ants to cement the elevated columns. This structure connects to the bridge which shines overhead. We build bridges for the Divine connection of God's message to the world through Jesus, in Puerto Rico, as we preach Christ as the only way to heaven.

How we long to continue to build these bridges through God's word in community with His people, actual human beings who live next to us in Puerto Rico. "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory." *John 1:14* We are the embodiment of all-powerful God sending us into the world. Through handshakes, Bible study, trying to touch or be seen by 1000 people weekly, in malls, halls, outreach, tract and or worship, we scatter seeds.

As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are currently on furlough. We have enjoyed sharing our daily experiences as missionary, church planters with our supporters. We hope to head back to the field in PR by the middle of October.

We listened as Harvey pounded through, four days non-stop. And reality was changed. Large churches had 70 families flooded with water between 3 and 9 feet in their homes. Roads were washed away, levees burst, vehicles plunged beneath the deep, as only the Lord's mercy saved us all from the flood.

A day later Levi was born to my daughter – a priest to the nations. She scurried for diapers, while neighborhoods and churches became missionaries to the lost and hopeless, marooned, trapped and destitute. Those hopeless human beings were helped with healing hands and the sweet word of Gospel.

We pray that countless of people will be touched at these critical moments of disaster by the hope we have in the promise of the gospel. Churches members are showing the most important commandments are: Love God and your neighbor as yourself by encouraging, helping with the task of collecting and wiping memorable items from what is left after the Harvey storm.

*~In His Service,
Rev. Richard & Gema Schuller*



Save the Dates!

Saturday evening, December 16.

Live Nativity with Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and wassail for the neighborhood afterwards. *Volunteers will be needed.*

Sunday, @noon, December 17.

Advent lunch. (ticketed event)



Immanuel Lutheran Church - November 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am	2 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	3 Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	4 Unveil Worship Service (Gym) @ 10:30 am FALL BACK! Set Clocks back 1 HOUR before bed!
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends Usher Team #5 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	6 Jr. Confirmation @ 4:45 pm Young Life Club In Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00 pm	7 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm ILC Youth Night @ 6:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	8 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am	9 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	10 ECE Thanksgiving Feast Set-up @ 2:00 pm	11 ECE Families Thanksgiving Feast in (MH & Gym) @ 8:00 am–6:00 pm
12 Usher Team #1 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School Unveil Worship (Gym) @ 10:30 am Celebration Lunch @ 11:45 am	13 Jr. Confirmation @ 4:45 pm Young Life Club In Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00 pm	14 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Naomi Meeting (MH) @ 10:00 am Church Council @ 7:00 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	15 Newsletter Deadline ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am	16 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Hamburger Fry @ 11:00–1:00 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm	17 FOD's Set-up (MH) Talent Show @ 6:00–9:30 pm Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	18 Unveil Worship Service (Gym) @ 10:30 am FOD's Talent Show (MH) @ 10:00 am–9:30 pm
19 Usher Team #2 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Voters' Meeting Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	20 NO Jr. Confirmation Young Life Club In Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm NO Evening Bible Study	21 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm ILC Youth Night @ 6:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	22 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am Usher Team #3 Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service @ 7:00 pm	23 Thanksgiving Day Offices Closed 	24 Offices Closed  Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	25 Church & Miertschin Hall Decorating 9:00 am Unveil Worship Service (Gym) @ 10:30 am
26 Usher Team #4 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	27 Jr. Confirmation @ 4:45 pm Young Life Club In Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm	28 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	29 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am	30 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm		



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Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Loving God ~ Loving Neighbors ~ Serving Others

**Thanksgiving Eve
Service**

**Wednesday
November 22
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