

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 7, No. 4

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

March 2018



O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.



© 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.

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Number 418 in the *Lutheran Service Book*, is a hymn traditionally sung at the beginning of the Season of Lent. This first verse points to Jesus' fasting and prayer, and the following verses explore the themes of temptation, reliance on God, and finally pointing us to the joy of our Easter at the final resurrection.

Forty is a number of some significance in scripture. Noah waited in the ark forty days and nights while it rained, and he waited yet another forty for the first sign of receding flood waters, Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years, and after His resurrection, Jesus appeared and taught for forty days just to name but a few examples of forty. But our Lenten practice of fasting and repentance is tied to Jesus' forty days fasting in the wilderness following His baptism.

Originally published in a children's hymnal as a teaching aid in 1873, this hymn has much to offer us today. You and I still face these same trials, temptations, and difficulties in life. This hymn teaches us to pattern our lives after Christ's. Obviously, something we do with imperfection, but something to strive for nonetheless. It is only because Jesus has come and taken our place under the wrath of God's Law that we are freed to seek a life of purity and love.

This Lententide, set aside some time. You may choose to symbolically "give something up", or you may want to spend this time in special devotion to a particular spiritual discipline. Whatever you do, take some time these forty days to remember that Jesus is YOUR Christ, and because of Him you have been freed from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

~God bless you, Pastor King



Passion Story Quiz

Match the correct answers with the questions.

1. What is another name for Calvary?
2. When Jesus was arrested, who tried to defend Him?
3. How many chief Priests are mentioned in the Passion story?
4. Who was condemned to death because he called himself, "Son of God"?
5. Which disciple held the position of treasurer?
6. What soldier had his ear cut off?
7. Which disciple was present at Christ's Crucifixion?
8. Name the place where Jesus prayed three times?
9. As Jesus prayed in the garden, what were the disciples doing?
10. Who was the man who confessed, "Surely this was the Son of God"?
11. In Gethsemane, who was Jesus was comforted by?
12. Who was the only close relative to Jesus at the crucifixion?
13. Where was the man from who helped carry Jesus' cross?
14. How many wounds does Jesus have on his body?
15. On what day of the week was the Lord's Supper instituted?
16. What sound reminded Peter of what Jesus said earlier?
17. Who was the prisoner released from jail?
18. What did Jesus wash of his disciples?
19. What emotion led Peter to deny Jesus?
20. The purple robe put on Jesus was to indicate He was what?
21. What celebration did Jesus and the disciples observe?
22. What kind of crown was placed on Jesus' head?
23. What sign did Judas use to let the soldiers identify Jesus?
24. Who asked the question, "What is Truth"?
25. In the Passion story, who tore off his clothes?
26. Upon the death of Jesus, what happened in addition to earthquakes and a darkened sun?

~Pastor Perez

(answers on page 4)

A. John	F. Two	K. Judas	P. Thursday	U. Jesus	Z. Gethsemane
B. Cyrene	G. King	L. Malchus	Q. Five	V. Pilate	
C. Their feet	H. Peter	M. Golgotha	R. Dead raised to life	W. Passover	
D. A Kiss	I. An Angel	N. The Centurion	S. Rooster crow	X. Caiaphas	
E. Barabbas	J. Fear	O. Sleeping	T. Mary, His mother	Y. Thorns	



The month of February focused on love. We had a great Valentine party on Sunday the 11th with good attendance. We sang to Jesus, meditated on Jesus' Word on love, decorated a wooden heart to take home and enjoyed Valentine trail mix for snack. Sunday school is such a joy when we fix our eyes on Jesus together.

In March is Lent, we will be looking into our hearts as we approach Holy Week and the joyous Easter morning.

Our Sunday School door is always open. We would love to have more children join us every Sunday morning at 10:30 am. Under age 3, bring an adult friend with you.



"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

Party Time Again!
Easter Party
Sunday, March 25th
at 10:30 am

Daylight Savings Time
Begins Sunday March 11th!

Set Clocks Forward 1 Hour
Before Retiring Saturday Night

Newsletter Contributors	
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March Events

Varsity Basketball - Boys and Girls

March 1-3 State Playoffs

Band Concert (Tour Music)

March 4 @ 3:00 pm

City-Wide Band Festival

March 23 @ 6:30 pm

Baseball Home Games

March 13, 20, 27 @ 6:30 om



Lutheran High North's 36th Annual Spring Musical

Friday and Saturday, April 27 & 28, at 7:00 pm

Grade School & Senior Citizen Matinees

Thursday, April 26, at 9:00 am & 12:30 pm

Immanuel's own **Nikki Bolen** is one of the grade school students in the show. Be sure to come see it.

~Lynn Eickemeyer

Leadership News

Next time you see Steve Hairgrove, stop to give him congratulations and gratitude. The Church Council has officially appointed Steve as Congregation President for the remainder of the current term. To facilitate this, he officially stepped down as Chairman of the Board of Elders, but will continue to serve Immanuel as an Elder. We certainly appreciate his willingness to serve the Lord and his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thanks and congratulations are also in order for Ray Thomas, who was chosen by the Elders to serve as Board Chairman. As you may recall, Ray has previously served Immanuel in this role with distinction.

Both these gentlemen deserve our gratitude for serving in the midst of busy lives and other personal and professional obligations. Please also keep them in your prayers that their service may be a blessing to all of us as well as to themselves.

*~Warmest regards,
Pastor King*

Looking ahead to April...

Gala Auction



Friday, April 13, 2018, at 5:30 pm

The Pavillion on Gessner

Quiz Answers

(from page 2)

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



He will cover you with His
feathers & under His wings
you will find REFUGE.
Psalm 91:4

2018 LCMS Texas District Early Childhood Conference

Horseshoe Bay Resort and Hotel near Marble Falls was the site of our Early Childhood Conference this year. All of our teachers and ECE Director attended the conference January 25-27. There was a sea of blue conference bags and t-shirts with the theme verse emblazoned on them. There was no mistaking who was part of the conference.

Dr. Bill Hinz, Texas District Director of School Ministry, presented the nominees for Teacher of the Year. The keynote speaker was Dr. Kim Marxhausen, who served as an LCMS teacher for many years. Dr. Marxhausen's doctoral work was in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Cognition, Learning and Development. She is currently teaching at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Her sessions were informative and delivered with intelligence and humor.

There was worship on Friday and Saturday with awesome music that was truly inspirational. Leading the worship was Rev. Steve Wagner from Concordia-San Antonio. We were blessed to have Adam Countryman, also from Concordia-San Antonio, leading the praise and worship music. Imagine more than 700 voices joined together singing Matt Redmond's *Ten Thousand Reasons* when the accompaniment stops, but the 700 plus voice choir continued the song. It was a very moving moment. The door prize basket we donated won a prize!



~Winnie McNamara

Support Our Sponsored Missionaries

Alaska Ministry

Rev. Keith Aschenbeck & Family

Donate online at:

<http://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org>

Mail donations to:

Alaska Mission for Christ, 8100 Arctic Blvd.,
Anchorage AK 99518
(Memo: "Keith Aschenbeck")

Donate via Thrivent Choice Dollars:

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

Donate via Amazon.com's Smile program

<http://smile.amazon.com>

Puerto Rico Ministry

Rev. Richard & Gema Schuller

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>

Dominican Republic Ministry Rev. Joel Fritsche & Family

Seminary Support

You can donate online through the following
link: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/seminary-support>.

By mail, make a check payable to Lutheran
Church—Missouri Synod and specify
"Dominican Republic Seminary" in the memo
line. Mail to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Mission Advancement
PO Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

General Support

Support/prayer card:

http://prayercards.lcms.org/Fritsche_DR_April%202017.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.

HAWC's Holiday Gift Express 2017 Recap

The combined efforts of ECE parents and Immanuel church members provided 150 gift bags packaged especially for during the Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC) Holiday Gift Express. In addition to these beautiful bags, we provided a truckload of toys and a little more than \$6,000 in cash!

Thank you all so much for your generosity in support of this worthy cause. And, thank you to the volunteers who manned our bake sale and to those who spent hours assembling and decorating the bags.

~Winnie McNamara

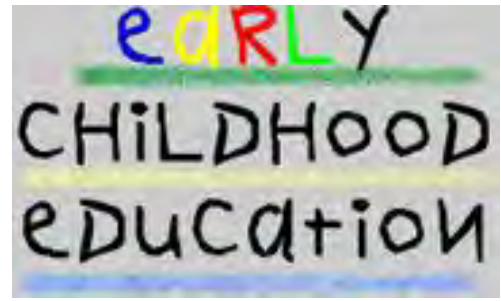


Hurricane Harvey Relief

Thank you to everyone who supported the relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating flooding. Through your generous donations and the fund established by the members of Immanuel, we were able to provide \$7,500 to Peace Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Rockport – Harvey made landfall in this area; \$5,000 to the Houston Area Women's Center; and \$2,000 to Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry. The remainder of the \$21,000 was used to help six families and their children, most of whom lost almost everything they owned.

Thank you again for all of your generous donations!

~Winnie McNamara



Food Pantry Donations



Last month the Houston Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry was in need of pasta and sauce. Some of our teachers held a contest with the prize being a classroom pizza party if 50 pounds of pasta and 12 jars of sauce per classroom were collected. The children had a great time counting all the items that were donated and were happy to know that they were helping people who didn't have a lot of food. We are happy to report that Ms. Audrey's class, Ms. Hayley's class and Ms. Winnie's class all met their goal!

~Winnie McNamara





Focus on Stewardship

Hudson Taylor, a nineteenth century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ. (*2 Cor. 10:5*).

Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it.

God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned, "on the mount of the Lord it will be provided" (*Gen. 22:14*). The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return. Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him.

When budgetary discussions pop up, our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance.

It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts are taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (*2 Chron. 16:9*).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans, but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

(Stewardship newsletter insert for January 2018, from the LCMS website <https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4989>)

~submitted by Kathy Angst



Thrivent Choice Dollars

2017 Thrivent Choice Dollars® expire on March 31, 2018, however, as March 30th is Good Friday and March 31st falls on Saturday, the corporate office will be closed on both of these days. Any remaining 2017 Thrivent Choice Dollars® need to be directed to qualifying organizations before that time.

There are two easy options for directing Choice Dollars®:

Phone: (800) 847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt. The Member Connection Center is open until 6:00 pm, central time, Monday-Friday.

Online:

<http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice>.

If you have questions, please contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at (800) 847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” or email fraternal@thrivent.com. For faster service, have your member ID or contract number available.

For more information on the Thrivent Choice® program, please visit <http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice>.

~submitted by Kathy Angst

Holy Week / Easter Services & Events

Maundy Thursday

March 29, 7:00 pm

Worship Service w/Communion

Good Friday, March 30, 7:00 pm

Worship Service

Saturday, March 31, 10:00 am

8th Annual Easter Celebration

Easter Egg Hunt, Crafts, Games, Refreshments, Easter Bunny

Easter Sunday, April 1

8:00 am Worship Service w/Communion

Light Breakfast following the service



Midweek Lent Dinners

At the time of this issue’s printing, no group or individuals had volunteered to provide dinner before the midweek Lent services on Wednesday, March 7 or Wednesday, March 21.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Winnie McNamara or the Church Office.

If there are no volunteers, there will be no dinner before the service those evenings.



*Be an **Eggcellent** Sponsor!*
8th Annual Easter Celebration
March 31st, 2018 at 10:00 am

Volunteer Opportunity #1

Pre-Easter Prep Party

Sunday, 3/11 @ 11:30 am – 2 pm

Light Lunch will be served

- ___ Stuff Eggs
- ___ Stuff Goody Bags
- ___ Distribute Door Hangers
in the neighborhood

**Volunteer
Opportunity #2**

___ Cash Donation

(Envelopes by Basket)

Donations received help to
better the event.

**Volunteer
Opportunity #3**

**Donate Homemade
Cookies**

___ Dozen
(Needed: 25 dozen total)

Volunteer Opportunity #4

Big Event

Saturday, March 31st
@ 9 am

- ___ Set up/Decorate Booths
- ___ Work a Booth
- ___ Mingle with Visitors
- ___ Take Pictures
- ___ Clean up

Fill out and Drop in the Easter Basket in Narthex.

Your help is needed to make this event a success.



Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Questions? Contact Cathleen Chevallier

Immanuel Lutheran Church - March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Bells @ 7:00 pm	2 Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	3 Unveil Worship Service (Gym) @ 10:30 am
4 Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	5 Jr. Confirmation @ 4:45 pm Young Life Club In Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00 pm	6 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00 – 1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm All Boards @ 7:00 pm	7 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am NO DINNER Usher Team #2 Worship @ 7:00 pm	8 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Bells @ 7:00 pm	9 Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	10 Unveil Worship Service (Gym) @ 10:30 am
11 Daylight Savings Time Spring Forward Usher Team #3 Worship Service @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	12 Young Life Club In Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm	13 Naomi @ 10:00 am FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm Council @ 7:00 pm	14 Lenten Dinner @ 5:30–6:30 pm Usher Team #4 Worship @ 7:00 pm	15 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Hamburger Fry @ 11:30–1:00 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Bells @ 7:00 pm	16 Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	17 Unveil Worship Service (Gym) @ 10:30 am
18 Usher Team #5 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am Voters @ 11:30 am	19 Jr. Confirmation @ 4:45 pm Young Life Club In Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm Evening Bible Study @ 6:30–8:00 pm	20 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	21 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am NO DINNER Usher Team #1 Worship @ 7:00 pm	22 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Bells @ 7:00 pm	23 Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	24 Unveil Worship Service (Gym) @ 10:30 am
25 Palm Sunday Usher Team #2 Worship Service @ 9:00 am New Member Reception Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:30 am	26 Jr. Confirmation @ 4:45 pm Young Life Club In Gym @ 5:30–9:00 pm	27 FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm ILC Youth Night @ 6:30 pm RDCDS @ 7:30–9:30 pm	28 ECE Chapel @ 9:30 am	29 Maundy Thursday FOD Work Day (MH) @ 10:00–1:30 pm Men's Basketball @ 6:00–9:00 pm Usher Team #3 Worship w/Communion @ 7:00 pm Bells @ 8:30 pm	30 Good Friday Usher Team #4 Worship @ 7:00pm Unveil Lutheran Church Gym Setup 6:00–8:00 pm	31 Easter Celebration @ 10:00 am Unveil Worship Service (Gym) @ 10:30 am

Serving Immanuel in March & April 2018

	Sunday March 4	Wednesday March 7	Sunday March 11	Wednesday March 14	Sunday March 18	Wednesday March 21
Elder	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.
Acolyte	Lawrence K.	Cameron W.	Lane H.	Jacob K.	Emily H.	Lawrence K.
Usher Team	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.
Media	Karen E.	Barbara S.	Jackie A.	Karen E.	Barbara S.	Jackie A.
Audio	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Antonette S. Vivian G.	Antonette S. Vivian G.	Antonette S. Vivian G.	Antonette S. Vivian G.	Antonette S. Vivian G.	Antonette S. Vivian G.

	Palm Sunday March 25	Maundy Thursday March 29	Good Friday March 30
Elder	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.
Acolyte	Cameron W.	Jacob K.	Emily H.
Usher Team	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.
Media	Karen E.	Karen E.	Jackie A.
Audio	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Antonette S. Vivian G.	Antonette S. Vivian G.	Antonette S. Vivian G.

If you would like to fill in, trade, or substitute please contact the church office. Thank you.

Serving Immanuel in March & April 2018

	Easter Sunday April 1	Sunday April 8	Sunday April 15	Wednesday April 22	Sunday April 29
Elder	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.
Acolyte	Emily H.	Lawrence K.	Cameron W.	Lane H.	Jacob K.
Usher Team	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Ralph E.	#4 John C.
Media	<i>No Media</i>	<i>No Media</i>	Barbara S.	Karen E.	Jackie A.
Audio	Max B.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.
Altar Guild	Denise G. Delores Q.	Denise G. Delores Q.	Denise G. Delores Q.	Denise G. Delores Q.	Denise G. Delores Q.

If you would like to fill in, trade, or substitute please contact the church office. Thank you.



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

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Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Love God ~ Care for Others

Immanuel's 8th Annual

EASTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 31st @ 10:00 a.m.

- Fun Activities
- Games w/Prizes
- Refreshments

Easter Egg Hunt

-Children Ages 10 and under-

A Visit by the Easter Bunny!

Community Welcome!

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