

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights
Celebrating 100 Years • 1919-2019

Vol. 8, No. 9

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

August 2019

Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.

It is great to be back and among you each Sunday. I thank you for the opportunity to take some time off and spend that time with our family.

The newsletter is a great place to provide the details of the nature and basis for each of the parts of the Historic Liturgy. I pray you enjoy learning, or re-learning these wonderful truths.



The Preparation

God is the one who leads us to join together on Sunday mornings for the Divine Service. This is not of our own choosing, as our sinful nature wants nothing to do with coming face to face with our Holy and righteous God. This is all on account of our sinfulness.

Following the Hymn of Invocation, the pastor speaks the words of the Invocation, *In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*, and the people respond, *Amen*.

The Invocation is the place where the Lord puts His Name on us. We were Baptized in the name of the Triune God, and the Invocation returns us to our Baptism.

Proverbs 18:10 (ESV)

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Exodus 20:24 (ESV)

An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.

(continued on page 2)

The Preparation . . .

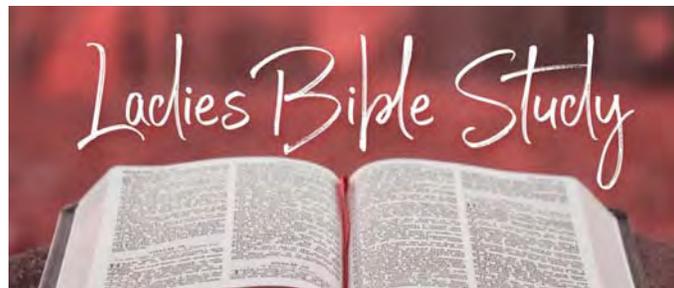
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There should be no question as to Who is present in the Divine Service. There should be no question as to who is doing the serving and who are the ones receiving. God comes to serve us with His gifts.

The people of God respond with **'AMEN'**, which means, 'yes, yes, it shall be so'. This is our confession that what God has said is true. His Word is true. We say to God what He first said to us. 'Yes, Lord, Your Word is true.' We should always speak the AMEN loud and clear – say it like you mean it!

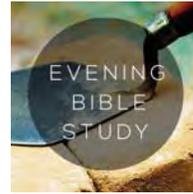
Next month we will examine Confession and Absolution. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you all in Bible Class and the Divine Service each and every Sunday!

*~In Christ,
Pastor Richard M. Gaub*



The Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Study began a new series on Angels in the Bible on July 17. We meet first and third Wednesdays at 10:00 am and welcome all ladies who are interested. We hope you will join us!

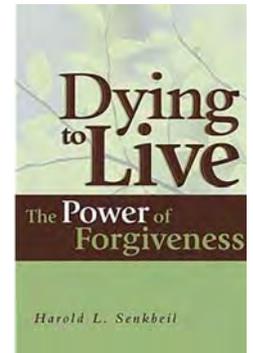
~Sandi Hrozek



Monday Night Bible Study

Beginning Monday, August 5, we will study the book, *Dying to Live: The Power of Forgiveness*, by Harold Senkbeil.

"What does the incarnation – the Word made flesh – mean for modern people? ... This book tackles the whys and hows of Christianity."



We would very much like for you to join us. Now is the perfect time to start! We meet for potluck dinner (study members volunteer/take turns) and fellowship 6:30-7:00 pm, with the Bible study @ 7:00-8:00 pm.

If you would like to prepare in advance of our first meeting, see Winnie McNamara to get a copy of the book and study guide.



Adult and Youth Instruction

Youth Catechism Instruction will begin on Sunday, September 8, from 11:30 am–12:30 pm (after the Bible Class/Sunday School hour).

Adult Membership Instruction is available for those interested. Please contact Pastor Gaub or the church office if you are interested, and we can discuss a day and time to begin meeting.

Sunday School

Our Summer months have been very lean in Sunday School attendance. There have been Sundays with no children, which is sad. The teachers have really missed the children and hope to see them again once summer is over and school begins.

Sunday School can be an important time in a child's life. The Sunday School hour is only one hour out of the whole week that is set aside to praise Jesus and grow our faith in Jesus. This is time spent in fellowship with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. No matter the age, we should all make a commitment to spending Sundays with Jesus, week after week.

To the parents, without you, the children cannot make it to Sunday School. My prayer for you, is that you would see the joy and strength that comes out of making a weekly commitment to your family and your faith. Immanuel offers an Adult Bible Class at the same time as Sunday School.

Our prayer for our class is that as we have fun with each other, that our walk with Jesus becomes stronger and over flows to those around us. Look forward to seeing you in Sunday School @ 10:15 am.



No Sunday School on Sunday, **August 4th**

Immanuel 100th Anniversary

"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*

Immanuel Lutheran Church – 100 Years in Pictures

Immanuel Lutheran Church was officially organized on August 4, 1919. Our first pastor, the Rev. William F. Dietze, came to Houston as a mission pastor in 1918 in order to form a new Lutheran church on the near north side. Pictured is *(top left)* the first little church on Allston; *(top & middle right)* the interior and exterior of the Gothic Revival styled church completed in 1932 at the corner of East 15th and Cortlandt; *(middle left)* the gymnasium entrance on Cortlandt before other structures were built around it; *(bottom left)* the new church building at the corner of East 15th and Arlington as it looked fifty years ago; and *(bottom right)* the Immanuel campus as it looks today.



The Charter Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Reverend William Frederick Julius Dietze and his wife; Mildred Olinda Drewes

William Fred Behnken and his wife; Elsie Marie Erzt

Gustav Magnus Borgstrom, Jr. and his wife; Elizabeth Agnes Gavin

Numa Edwin Borgstrom and his wife; Lorena Amelia Schultz

Philip Leopold Borgstrom and his wife; Catherine Emelia Munhausen

Frank (Franz) Dietzel and his wife; Mary "Mamie" Smith

William Henry Ehlert and his wife; Laura Maria Leonora Mueller

Henry August Kaiser and his wife; Bertha Theresia Krause

Bernhard William Kleinhans and his wife; Emilie Ella Hein

Alfred Ernst Lehman and his wife; Anna Elizabeth Kiesslich

John Joseph Oberprillar, Sr. and his wife; Idella Walters

Robert Edward Preusser and his wife; Alice Fern Ormerod

Carl William Sauer, Sr. and his wife; Vivian Annabelle Taylor

Henry Martin Sauer and his wife; Mary Helen Yechout Mathis

Albert Henry Smith and his wife; Louise Margaret Nussbeck

Albert Christian Zischang and his wife; Carrie May Brewer



(left-right) Henry Kaiser, Albert Smith, Bernhard Kleinhans, William Behnken



Vacation Bible School – 1948



Groundbreaking for the New Gymnasium

Yes, that is real snow on the ground! 2.2 inches of snow fell in Houston in January of 1949

Music Ministry

It's almost time to begin another year of Music Ministry. There are two opportunities available to be part of this ministry: The Vocal Choir, which will now be referred to as the **Immanuel Kantorei**, and the Bell Choir which will now be referred to as the **Carillon Ringers**. The purpose of both choirs is to bring praise and glory to our Lord through the gift of music. Both choirs are open to anyone high school age and older. Immanuel's music ministry is a great way to make new friends or reacquaint yourself with old ones. Prior musical knowledge is not required to be part of any of these groups, just a commitment to rehearsals and a willingness to learn.

If you have any questions regarding either of these groups, please don't hesitate to grab me at church or email me with questions at music@immanuelhouston.org. I would be happy to sit down with you and talk.

Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 5:
Immanuel Kantorei at 7:00 pm
Carillon Ringers at 8:00 pm

Both groups meet in the Music room off of the sanctuary balcony.

~ Stephen Hernandez

Join us!



We will meet Sunday August 11, immediately following Bible Class. This is our annual election meeting to select a new President. I encourage all members and anyone interested in finding out more about the Altar Guild to please join us.

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve for the past few years as the President of this very dedicated group of servants silently working in the background in Service to our Lord.

~Peace and Blessings
Denise Goehring



Centennial t-shirts, available in a variety of sizes, will be for sale for \$15 each beginning August 4.

Orders will be taken for our commemorative cookbook, which will be delivered in November. The cost of the hardback cookbook will be \$20. **You can submit recipes through the end of August!** We need more recipes.

Contact Karen Evans in the church office for further information or to place an order:
(713) 864-2651 or
churchsecretary@immanuelhouston.org

~Winnie McNamara
Centennial Chair



Focus on Stewardship

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony of receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? The offerings are collected in plates or baskets, and they are brought forward and given to the pastor or an assistant. The pastor turns toward the altar, and, as he slightly bows his head, the offerings are raised slightly to the Lord and placed on the altar or an adjacent table.

Why do we have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does – it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us what we need to know about Christ (*AC XXIV, 1–3*).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion – the bread and the wine – were brought forward with the offerings. The offerings and elements were lifted toward the Lord and placed upon the altar. The altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

Gifts brought to the altar come from the sweat of His people's brow. They are the bread and wine, the fruits of His people's labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people are to bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. Gifts set upon the altar are

offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into service for His gracious work.

For what is offered to the Lord from the sweat of His people's brow – the bread of anxious toil – comes back to us as the bread of life. The bread comes down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup will receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household." (*Deut. 14:22-26*)

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows. He receives this from us in the first-fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise, and He turns these into spiritual bread. He gives this heavenly bread – the bread of eternal life – back to us so we might have joy.

(continued on page 9)

Love God – Care for Others

The mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church is to strengthen our church family through prayer, Word, and Sacrament, to reach out with the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and to extend His love and care to one another.

Stewardship . . .

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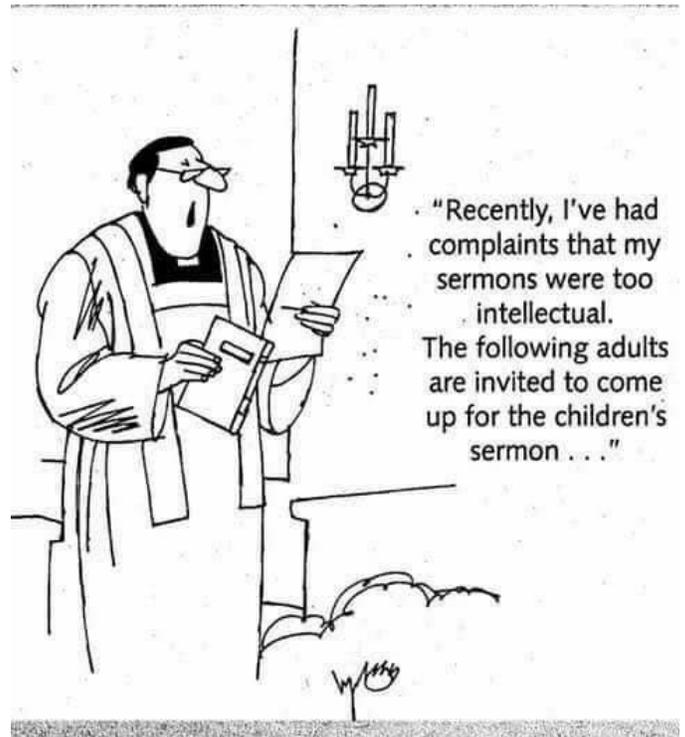
So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder. The offerings we have given to Him, the Lord gives back to us in His supper so that we may rejoice in the salvation He won for us upon the cross.

~submitted by Kathy Angst

(Stewardship newsletter insert for August 2019, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=3gjconJd1zfJ6XMfSQWn0TkDJHuiKddx>)

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 Graphic Design.....Matthew Szalkowski



https://www.reddit.com/r/dankchristianmemes/comment/s/899sc1/when_the_sermons_are_too_intellectual/



The Call Committee has completed all the necessary items and has mailed our completed packet to district. District typically takes 6-8 weeks to supply us with a list of Pastoral candidates. The Call and Call Advisory groups will be meeting in the interim to ensure we are well prepared for the interview process.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2.

~Lauren Neu

GOD | will provide |

Mission Report

The Fritsche Family: A La Republica Dominicana



On Monday night, June 3, Pastor Joel, his wife, Clarion, and their sons, (left-right) Viktor, Andrei and Sergei, visited Immanuel for a meal, fellowship, and to share with us their mission work in the Dominican Republic. Each member of the family spoke about different aspects of their missionary life, and Rev. Joel gave details about the seminary and their new worship space.

Immanuel made a donation to the Fritsche's ministry to cover specific needs, and Pastor Fritsche sent a thank you note that included the following invitation to visit their ministry and see first-hand how our generous donations are helping to spread the Gospel in the Dominican Republic.

We want to extend an invite to Immanuel to send representatives to our fall Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM) FORO, September 19-23. We would be happy to receive one or two representatives from the congregation in September to sit at the table with us and our partners. It is an opportunity

to tour the missions, get to know missionaries and other partners, and get a closer look at our life and Gospel work in the DR. We will also be ordaining our third Dominican Lutheran pastor, Yban Navarro, on Sunday during the FORO.

I would like to connect you with missionary Erin Mackenzie. She works with short-term teams that come to the DR and handles logistics for most of our big events. She maintains our communications with FORO partners as well. I am copying her on this email. Perhaps you could connect her with one or two others who might have interest in coming in September. If you have any questions, she can answer. Even if it's not possible to come in September, we would like to keep some of you Immanuel folks on our communications list for the FORO newsletter so you stay connected and are aware of happenings on the field, especially dates for future FOROs.

*Rev. Joel Fritsche
Director, Centro de Misericordia y Seminario
Concordia El Reformador
Republica Dominicana*

If anyone is interested in traveling to the Dominican Republic in September, please contact Winnie McNamara.

See photos by Cathleen Chevallier and the Fritsche family on page 10.



Pastor Joel Fritsche is the great-grandson of an Immanuel charter member, Henry Kaiser.





IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

You and Your Family Are Invited

to our

100th Anniversary

Divine Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration

Sunday ~ August 4, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Guest Homilist: The Reverend Michael Newman
President,

Texas District - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Presiding Minister: The Reverend Richard Gaub

Assisting Minister: The Reverend Claudio Perez, Sr.

Reception and Campus Open House
following the service until 6:00 p.m.

Staffed Nursery Available

Please call the church office or contact a Centennial Committee member at the telephone number or email address listed below for information.



RALLY DAY

“JOY”

**Devotion, Songs and Activities
For Everyone**

**Sunday, August 25th, 2019
10:15 am in Miertschin Hall**

**Followed by Lunch at 11:30 am
Spaghetti Casserole, Salad, Bread and Dessert**

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





Immanuel Lutheran Church - August 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School on August 4</i></p>				<p>1 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Centennial Service Rehearsal All Musicians @ 9:00-11:30 am</p>
<p>4 Usher Team #4 am Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Usher Team #5 pm Centennial Worship Service @ 3:00 pm Reception in MH following </p>	<p>5 New Topic Evening Bible Study 6:30–8:00 pm</p>	<p>6 All Boards @ 7:00 pm Scottish Dancers @ 7:30–9:30 pm</p>	<p>7 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am ECE (MH) Ice Cream Social @ 5:30-7:00 pm</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Gym Rental Scottish Dancers @ 7:00–9:00 pm</p>
<p>11 Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am Altar Guild @ 11:30 am</p>	<p>12 In-Service ECE Teachers</p>	<p>13 In-Service ECE Teachers Naomi Meeting @ 10:00 am Scottish Dancers @ 7:30–9:30 pm</p>	<p>14 ECE First Day!</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 FoD's Dance (MH) @ 4:00–9:00 pm</p>
<p>18 Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am</p>	<p>19 Evening Bible Study 6:30–8:00 pm</p>	<p>20 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30–9:30 pm</p>	<p>21 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Usher Team #3 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am @ 10:15 am Rally Day! For EVERYONE! Lunch @ 11:30 am</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30–9:30 pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

Save the Dates!

Sunday, January 26, 2020

9:00 a.m. Divine Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration

Luncheon: The Bell Tower

901 W. 34th St

Ticket Information Available in November

Saturday, July 25, 2020

Homecoming Dinner and Dance

SPJST Lodge

1435 Beall St.

Ticket Information Available in April

Sunday, July 26, 2020

9:00 a.m. Closing 100th Anniversary Divine Service

Addresses needed for all Immanuel Lutheran School Alumni. Please email names and address to churchsecretary@immanuelhouston.org with information. If you have questions, please email Immanuel.100.houston@gmail.com or see Karen Evans, Lauren Neu or Winnie McNamara. Thank you!

Serving Immanuel August-September 2019

	Sunday August 4 (am)	Sunday August 4 (pm)	Sunday August 11	Sunday August 18	Sunday August 25
Elder	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.	Steve H.
Acolyte	Molly H.	<i>TBD</i>	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.
Usher Team	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Lonnie A.
Media	Karen E.	<i>No Media</i>	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Jackie A.
Audio	Max B.	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Max B.	Gerald O.
Altar Guild	Bob & Martha M.	Bob & Martha M.	Bob & Martha M.	Bob & Martha M.	Bob & Martha M.
Trustee	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.	Karen E.

	Sunday September 1	Sunday September 8	Sunday September 15	Sunday September 22	Sunday September 29
Elder	Phil N.	Phil N.	Phil N.	Phil N.	Phil N.
Acolyte	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.
Usher Team	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.	#3 Lonnie A.
Media	Karen E.	Melissa T.	Barbara S.	Jackie A.	Karen E.
Audio	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.	Ray T.	Max B.
Altar Guild	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.	Evelyn M. & Bonnie T.
Trustee	Ashlee F.	Ashlee F.	Ashlee F.	Ashlee F.	Ashlee F.

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church
1440 Cortlandt St
Houston, TX 77008

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NORTH HOUSTON,
TEXAS

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Love God ~ Care for Others



"JOY"

**Devotion, Songs
and Activities
For Everyone**

**Sunday, August 25th, 2019
10:15 am in Miertschin Hall**

**Followed by Lunch at 11:30 am
Spaghetti Casserole, Salad, Bread & Dessert**