

Connections

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

Vol. 8, No. 10

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

September 2019

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

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.

Last month we examined the Invocation. This month we take a closer look at the Confession and Absolution.

Our Lord has called us into His Church and He has placed His Name upon us in Holy Baptism. We begin in the Name of the One in Whom we are Baptized – The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit.

It is true that God is the one who prepares us for worship, the Divine Service, and as His people we can prepare for the Divine Service by reading the Scripture which is assigned for that particular Sunday or Feast Day.

Immediately following the Invocation, we confess our sins and receive the Holy Absolution. In Divine Service – Setting III we speak the Word that God has first given us:

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

This is from Hebrews 10:22. God's Word tells us from the very beginning that the true heart confesses sins – to speak the truth is to confess who we are and Who God is. We are sinners with innumerable sins to confess, and we beg our Father to forgive us in the Name of His Son Jesus Christ, whose atonement covers our sins and wipes them away.

***Our help is in the name of the Lord.
Who made heaven and earth.
I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.***

(continued on page 2)



Confession . . .

(continued from page 1)

Again, we go to God's Word to speak the truth, in particular Psalm 124:8 and Psalm 32:5. Our only help is in the Name of the Lord – the same Name into whom we are Baptized! And He promises to forgive our sins!

And so, we proceed by confessing that we are by nature sinful and unclean – we have sinned in thought, word, and deed – we have sinned by our actions and inactions – and we deserve nothing but eternal punishment. We confess that we are heartily sorry for our sins, we sincerely repent of them, and we beg God to be merciful and gracious to us.

The roles in the Divine Service are clearly defined – we offer nothing – we can only serve the role of beggar. But our Lord is full of grace and mercy – that is what defines Him – and we see this in the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins.

The Pastor then stands before you and proclaims to you that your sins are forgiven for the sake of Christ! The Pastor speaks in the stead of and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is appropriate for the Pastor to ask you, "Do you believe that the words of forgiveness that I speak to you are from God Himself?" And the answer is an emphatic, "Yes!"

This is truly a most blessed gift from God. The Absolution is what faith and the Christian long to hear. What comfort it gives!

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, [29] for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV)

I look forward to seeing you each and every Sunday morning for Divine Service!

*~In Christ,
Pastor Richard Gaub
Vacancy Pastor*



The Joy of Baptism

This summer has me doing the "Honey Dos," the things that have to be done. I also have been busy visiting members in the hospitals and homebound members, and had the joy to Baptize several children.

In late April, Lorna Rhodes, our member who returned to her hometown of Lexington, Texas, called and asked if I would baptize her great-granddaughter? "Of course," I responded. She stopped me and said, "On a Saturday morning?" I again assured her, "Of course, give me a date and time." That week I reviewed, "The Benefits of Baptism."

On the appointed Saturday morning, I filled the Baptismal font and searched out the Baptismal napkin and candle. Karen had the certificate and Baptismal folder ready.

(continued on page 3)

Baptism . . .

(continued from page 2)

The side gate was open, my office door unlocked and I waited, watching the clock. The Baptismal party came to the front door on Arlington. Car after car after car parked on Arlington, all the adults lined up behind the couple, and Lucy Joy Atchison was baptized into the family of God's kingdom. Can you imagine? 20 adults and one child witnessed the Baptism! One child led many to her new birthday, her Baptism. God's Glory was present.

Also this summer, one of our members talked to the Almandarez family about Baptism, and they decided to bring their four children to be Baptized on another Saturday. Carol Whitefield made the commemorative banners, Karen prepared the certificates and placed the banners, and Elder Mike Rivera attended on behalf of Immanuel congregation. There were 16 in all to witness God's grace, including the children, sponsors, and parents. All those present at these Baptisms heard the Word of God and the benefits of Baptism. Please pray that this family will bring the children to Sunday School to continue their journey of faith.

~Pastor Perez



The Sunday morning Adult Bible Class, led by Pastor Gaub, will begin a study on Paul's letter to the Colossians on Sunday, September 1.



Monday Night Bible Study

We just began our study of the book, *Dying to Live: The Power of Forgiveness*, by Harold Senkbeil, so there is still time to join us.

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

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, usually on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Please note, in September, we will alter our usual schedule due to the Labor Day holiday, and meet on Mondays the 9th and 23rd.

Winnie McNamara has copies of the book and the accompanying study guide for anyone interested in joining.



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

Make the Connection



Our seasonal tree has come to life again. During the summer months, our Sunday School theme has been "The Ten Commandments". Each Sunday after studying one or more of the commandments, the children along with the teachers would make an ornament that would represent that commandment. Our tree for now is "The Ten Commandments Tree."

Over the next coming months, our tree will take on several new looks from Fall to Thanksgiving to Christmas. The more children we have, the more decorations we can make. The more children we have, the more Joy we have to share with each other. That Joy of

learning about Jesus makes us want to share it with others.

Join us each Sunday morning downstairs at 10:15 am. We would love to see you there!! Friends are always welcome!

"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*



Centennial Celebration

Happy 100th! On August 4, 2019, Immanuel celebrated our 100th anniversary of ministry in the Houston Heights. Our celebration included the blessing of a new cross, paraments, and Communionware at our 9:00 am service.



Our official anniversary celebration service was held at 3:00 pm. Over 250 Immanuel friends and family celebrated with us. The service was a beautiful reminder of the blessings God has and continues to bestow on us. The service was followed by a reception and open house.



Thank you to all who helped us celebrate this occasion. A special thanks to all who were

involved in the planning and preparation of the celebration activities, our guest musicians, and Rev. Michael Newman, TX District President-LCMS, guest homilist.

We will continue to celebrate our 100th anniversary throughout the upcoming year, so stay tuned for more celebration activities.

~Lauren Neu, photos by Bob McFarland



I wish to extend my thanks to all those who participated musically for the Centennial Divine Service. What a joy it was to have a full balcony, and enjoy a wonderful afternoon of music making.

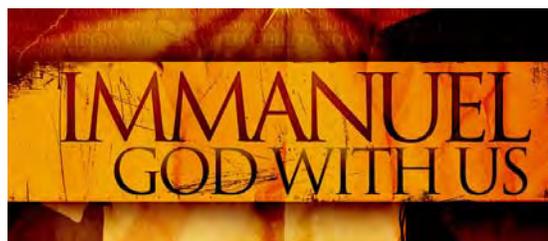
~Stephen Hernandez

Centennial Moment



1961 Photo of New Church from Arlington St.

~Winnie McNamara



2019 Summer Family Fun Nights

People of all ages came out to enjoy delicious food, fun and fellowship.



Each night was blessed with singing and wonderful devotions. Tuesday, we learned about Jesus using a pencil. Jesus is our eraser or forgiver of all mistakes.



Door Prizes for all ages



Activities involved everyone working together on answering questions to putting puzzles.



Approx. 45 people in attendance each night.



2019 Summer Family Fun Nights Continued



Thursday night, the devotion covered the many Fruits of the Spirit and how they applied to us as well as how they apply when we reach out to others.



Groups teamed up to see who could stack the Old Testament Books of the Bible on cups in order first.



Pass It On!
The word of Jesus (small piece of wiener) is sometimes easy to share (tongs) and sometimes hard (using your elbows). God commands that we pass the Word on.

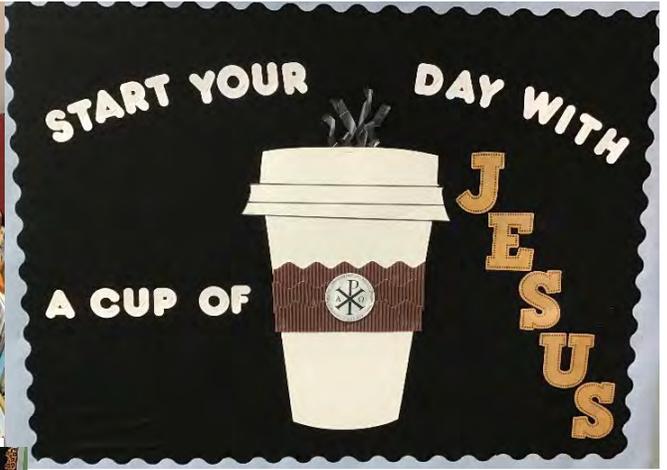


**Thanks to all
who came to
just have fun!!**



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
ECE
2019-2020
BUSY FIRST DAYS OF
SCHOOL**





Immanuel Staff In-Service Day, preparing for the 2019-2020 School Year.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10



~ECE photo pages submitted by Connie Meave

Top Ten Reasons We Use The Liturgy

~by The Rev. William Cwirla

Why the Liturgy? First a definition and a disclaimer. By "liturgy" I mean the western catholic mass form as it has been handed down by way of the Lutheran Reformation consisting of the five fixed canticles – Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei. Pardon the Greek and Latin, but it sounds cool and we still use them. "Liturgy" also includes the assigned Scripture texts for the Sundays, feast days, and seasons. Most of what I will say about the liturgy of the Divine Service will pertain to "liturgical worship" in general.

Now, why do we worship according to the western, Catholic liturgy?

1. It shows our historic roots. Some parts of the liturgy go back to the apostolic period. Even the apostolic church did not start with a blank liturgical slate but adapted and reformed the liturgies of the synagogue and the Sabbath. The western mass shows our western catholic roots, of which we as Lutherans are not ashamed. (I'd rather be confused with a Roman Catholic than anything else.) We're not the first Christians to walk the face of the planet, nor, should Jesus tarry, will we be the last. The race of faith is a relay race, one generation handing on ("traditioning") to the next the faith once delivered to the saints. The historic liturgy underscores and highlights this fact. It is also "traditionable," that is, it can be handed on.

2. It serves as a distinguishing mark. The liturgy distinguishes us from those who do not

believe, teach, and confess the same as we do. What we believe determines how we worship, and how we worship confesses what we believe.

3. It is both Theocentric and Christocentric. From the invocation of the Triune Name in remembrance of Baptism to the three-fold benediction at the end, the liturgy is focused on the activity of the Triune God-centered in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Worship is not primarily about "me" or "we" but about God in Christ reconciling the world to Himself and my baptismal inclusion in His saving work.

4. It teaches. The liturgy teaches the whole counsel of God – creation, redemption, sanctification, Christ's incarnation, passion, resurrection, and reign, the Spirit's outpouring and the new life of faith. Every liturgical year cycles through these themes so that the hearer receives the "whole counsel of God" on a regular basis.

5. It is transcultural. One of the greatest experiences of my worship life was to be in the Divine Service in Siberia with the Siberian Lutheran Church. Though I spoke only a smattering of Russian, I knew enough to recognize the liturgy, know what was being said (except for the sermon, which was translated for us), and be able to participate knowledgeably across language and cultural barriers. I have the same experience with our Chinese mission congregation.

6. It is repetitive in a good way. Repetition is, after all, the mother of learning. Fixed texts and annual cycles of readings lend to deep learning. Obviously, mindless repetition does not accomplish anything; nor does an endless variety.

(continued on page 12)

Liturgy . . .

(continued from page 11)

7. It is corporate. Worship is a corporate activity. "Let us go to the house of the Lord." The liturgy draws us out of ourselves into Christ by faith and the neighbor by love. We are all in this together. Worship is not simply about what "I get out of it," but I am there also for my fellow worshippers to receive the gifts of Christ that bind us together and to encourage each other to love and good works (Heb 10:25). We are drawn into the dialogue of confession and absolution, hearing and confessing, corporate song and prayer. To borrow a phrase from a favored teacher of mine, in church we are "worded, bodied, and bloodied" all together as one.

8. It rescues us from the tyranny of the "here and now." When the Roman world was going to hell in a handbasket, the church was debating the two natures of Christ. In the liturgy, the Word sets the agenda, defining our needs and shaping our questions. The temptation is for us to turn stones into bread to satisfy an immediate hunger and scratch a nagging spiritual itch, but the liturgy teaches us to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

9. It is external and objective. The liturgical goal is not that everyone feel a certain way or have an identical "spiritual" experience. Feelings vary even as they come and go. The liturgy supplies a concrete, external, objective anchor in the death and resurrection of Jesus through Word, bread, and wine. Faith comes by hearing the objective, external Word of Christ.

10. It is the Word of God. This is often overlooked by critics of liturgical worship. Most of the sentences and songs of the liturgy are direct quotations or allusions from Scripture or summaries, such as the Creed. In other words, the liturgy is itself the Word of God, not simply a packaging for the Word. Many times the liturgy will rescue a bad sermon and deliver what the preacher has failed to deliver. I know; I've been there.

Ten is one of those good numbers in the Bible signifying completeness, so I'll stop at ten. I'm sure there are more.

~submitted by Stephen Hernandez



Focus on Stewardship

What is a steward? Most people will say a steward is a manager.

That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him:

"For we brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything out of the world."
(1 Tim. 6:7)

(continued on page 13)

Stewardship . . .

(continued from page 12)

Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner.

This is not only because He created all things; He is also the redeemer. He has redeemed – that is, purchased – and won all things. Therefore, it all belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege.

Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage his possessions on His behalf here on earth.

And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

But what a responsibility!

"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required." *(Luke 12:48b)*

We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what He desires and wills for His property.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God?

We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will is for all of His gifts. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use

our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing we have that doesn't belong to Him.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." *(1 Cor. 6:19-20)*.

God informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – managers and custodians – are to manage His property.

And that is stewardship. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us.

As St. Paul said,

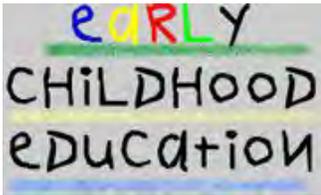
"Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness." *(Rom. 6:13)*

So, let's dive into God's Word, and listen to what He desires from His stewards.

~submitted by Kathy Angst

(Stewardship newsletter insert for September 2019, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=TAuseTC4CpCoeUoQIcV9oYgapxT1BSFr>)

Regular Voters Meeting
Sunday, September 22
(@11:35/40 am after Bible
Class/Sunday School hour)



2019-2020 Chapel Offering

Every year, we designate a charity to be the recipient of our chapel offering. This year we have chosen Parade Gardens Lutheran School in Kingston, Jamaica. This new little school of 40 students under the leadership of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) is a first for the missionaries currently serving in Jamaica. The school will open its doors on September 5, 2019, to be followed by a dedication service scheduled for September 18.

We are one of two groups who have pledged at least \$4,000 each to support this mission school in their endeavor. There are three teachers, a director, a lady who cooks and cleans, and a teacher's aide. The school will be supervised by the Reverend Charles St-Onge who is the Area Facilitator for Latin America and Caribbean Region of the LCMS International Mission. It's amazing to think that a school could run on less than \$10,000 a year.

~Cathy Swanstrom & Winnie McNamara



Rehearsals for Fall 2019 are on Thursdays
beginning September 5

Kantorei (Adult Vocal Choir) – 7:00 pm
Carillon Ringers (Bells) – 8:00 pm

For more information, contact Stephen
Hernandez, music@immanuelhouston.org



Lutheran High North

September Events

Volleyball games

Tues. Sept. 3, 5:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 12, 6:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 26, 5:00 pm JV, then Varsity

Football

Fri. Sept. 6, 7:00 pm
Fri. Sept. 13, 7:00 pm

Middle School Volleyball Tournament

Sat. Sept. 14

~Lynn Eickemeyer

Newsletter Contributors

Editor.....Barbara Szalkowski
Contributors.....Kathy Angst
.....Cathleen Chevallier
.....Rev. William Cwirla
.....Lynn Eickemeyer
.....Karen Evans
.....Pastor Richard Gaub
.....Denise Goehring
.....Stephen Hernandez
.....Bob McFarland
.....Winnie McNamara
.....Connie Meave
.....Lauren Neu
.....Pastor Claudio Perez
.....Cathy Swanstrom
.....Ray Thomas
Graphic Design.....Matthew Szalkowski

Support Our Sponsored Missionary

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.

Other LCMS Missions

Puerto Rico Ministry

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 Neuendorf, Puerto Rico in the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online through their website <http://www.lcms.org/neuendorf>

Alaska Ministry

Donate online at:
<http://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org>

Mail donations to:
Alaska Mission for Christ, 8100 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage AK 99518

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>



October 5, 2019 9:00 am-5:00 pm
14th Annual Houston Heights
Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, October 5, 2019
Marmion Park Houston, TX
1802 Heights Blvd.
Houston, TX US 77008

Immanuel Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Education will have a booth at this event. **To volunteer to man the booth, please contact Winnie McNamara or Melissa Theis. We will need a volunteer team to set up a 10x10 cover, table and two chairs at Noon with teardown at 5:30 pm.** For more information, please call the Church Office, (713) 864-2651.

So, come on out and meet and greet some of our Heights neighbors! This event is a family event for children and adults. It is not a race; it is self-paced and there is a short course of 3 miles and a long course of 15 along with refreshments and prizes at the finish line. For registration information, please see <http://houstonheights.org> or call (713) 861-4002, Option B.



Immanuel Lutheran Church - September 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Usher Team #4 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	2 ECE Closed Offices Closed  No Evening Bible Study	3 All Boards @ 7:00 pm Scottish Dancers @ 7:30 – 9:30 pm	4 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am	5 Bingo @ 1:00–3:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Bells 8:00 pm	6	7
8 Usher Team #5 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	9 Evening Bible Study 6:30–8:00 pm	10 Naomi Meeting @ 10:00 am Church Council @ 7:00 pm Scottish Dancers @ 7:30 – 9:30 pm	11	12 Choir 7:00 pm Bells 8:00 pm	13	14 FoD's Fiesta Luncheon @ 8:00 am–3:00 pm
15 Usher Team #1 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am	16	17 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30 – 9:30 pm	18 Ladies Bible Study @ 10:00 am	19 Hamburger Fry @ 11:00 am–1:00 pm  Choir 7:00 pm Bells 8:00 pm	20	21
22 Usher Team #2 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Installation of ECE Staff Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am Voter's Meeting @ 11:45 am	23 Evening Bible Study 6:30–8:00 pm	24 Scottish Dancers @ 7:30 – 9:30 pm	25	26 Choir 7:00 pm Bells 8:00 pm	27	28
29 Usher Team #3 Worship Service w/Communion @ 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School @ 10:15 am Social Ministry Door Offering	30					

Serving Immanuel September~October 2019

	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	Barbara S.	Melissa T.	Karen E.	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.

	Sunday October 6	Sunday October 13	Sunday October 20	Sunday October 27
Elder	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.	Ray T.
Acolyte	Molly H.	Emily H.	Nikki B.	Molly H.
Usher Team	#4 John C.	#5 Bill O.	#1 Bill E.	#2 Larry G.
Media	Melissa T.	Jackie A.	Barbara S.	Karen E.
Audio	Gerald O.	Ray T.	Gerald O.	Max B.
Altar Guild	Maria O. & Leticia L.	Maria O. & Leticia L.	Maria O. & Leticia L.	Maria O. & Leticia L.
Trustee	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.	Mike R.

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

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

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Love God ~ Care for Others



**Hamburger Fry
Returns!
Thursday
September 19th
11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

