

Connections

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Houston Heights

Vol. 10, No. 11

<http://ImmanuelHouston.org/>

October 2021

Teaching and Learning for Enduring Faith



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

On Sunday, September 12, Immanuel Lutheran Church began our new Sunday School opening in the parish hall. The Sunday School opening includes prayer, the catechism lesson for the week, and a hymn.

Then, on September 19, we began using the Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum published by Concordia Publishing House.

Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum traces God's plan of salvation throughout the entire Bible—pointing students, early childhood to adult, to Jesus, their Savior.

Enduring Faith is a 3-Year Program:

Year 1: Bible Survey

Year 2: Old Testament Exploration

Year 3: New Testament Exploration

All levels of the Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum follow the same scope and sequence. This alignment presents some amazing opportunities.

- First of all, it helps all ages speak a common theological language.
- Second, it helps God's people build an understanding of the lifelong nature of learning God's Word—that we don't just learn the narratives once or twice before moving on to other matters.
- Third, and critical to this curriculum, it helps equip households to teach the faith at home.

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Encourage Our Brothers and Sisters in Faith

When leaving for home on Sunday, twice I was stopped and heard, "Pastor, I am concerned about our members."

These members are concerned for our fellow members who are not coming to Divine Service to hear God's Word and receive His Sacrament and are also not experiencing the support of the fellowship of their brothers and sisters in Christ. Where else can you be fed by God's Word? Where else can you hear, "Your sins are forgiven"?

This pandemic changed our worship schedule for a time. But following the simple habits of washing hands and keeping a safe distance around crowds, the faithful enjoy the services and Bible class and Sunday School every Sunday again. God's Word and Sacrament of Holy Communion strengthens our faith and lifts our spirits. But as we look at the empty pews our hearts hurt.

Immanuel has a place of worship and celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday. We are a Christian family and need each other's friendship, encouragement, and support.

We praise God that he feed us with His Word. This Word will strengthen your faith. Those who come will also enjoy the fellowship of believers in hugs, handshakes, the sharing of the peace, and kneeling together at the altar to receive the Lord's Supper.

We also have coffee and doughnuts again after the Divine Service and before Bible class and Sunday School.

We are family and families stick together to hear God's Word and we call on Him in prayer and sing praises to Him who is our Savior. All are welcome to attend Immanuel and be blessed.

✠ *Pastor Claudio Perez*



Enduring Faith . . .

(continued from page 1)

If parents and other adults spend time meditating and discussing the narratives of the Bible while the younger generations in the congregation study the same narratives, then there will be greater opportunity throughout the week to reflect together upon what the narrative says and what it means. In other words, studying the narratives of the Bible as adults is a blessing in and of itself, but it also helps equip parents and congregational leaders to be more confident to extend those conversations into the household.

We hope you will join us!

✠ *Pastor Richard Gaub*

Our Bible Class/Sunday School combined opening is every Sunday at 10:25 am in Miertschin Hall. Classes will immediately follow in their usual locations.

Sunday School



We have started a new Sunday School curriculum for this year – Enduring Faith! While we will continue to have separate classes, the scripture readings and weekly theme will be consistent across all age groups. The first unit's theme is

God Creates a World and a Kingdom

Please join us after service at 10:25 am in Miertschin Hall for a weekly all-ages opener, before heading to our Sunday School classes at 10:30 am.



~Jessie Nelson



I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls and visits during the time I have been ill. I would also like

to thank Pastor Perez for coming and bringing communion each month.

Please continue to pray for me as I continue my chemo treatments

*~God's blessings,
Carla Faske*



Monday Evening Bible Study

Resumes Monday, October 4 at 7:00 pm in Miertschin Hall. The group will regularly meet the 1st & 3rd Monday evenings of each month.

New Topic: Justification. All are welcome!

Newsletter Contributors

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
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Focus on Stewardship

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (*Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6*).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of their parents have done or said that is less than polite.

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Stewardship . . .

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Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father’s grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father’s gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther’s Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer:

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God’s daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

[Stewardship newsletter insert for October 2021, from the LCMS website <https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=rLiYkKt1cYAXIpa7tGLXIW09EUEeIzWG>]

***Social Ministry
Door Offering
Sunday, October 31***



Mission Report Cayman Islands Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul



[Excerpt from the September 2021 newsletter, to see the entire issue see <https://tinyurl.com/3xnmmafjn>]



Grace made landfall in the early hours of August 17. We could hear the wind as it whipped around the house. "Ah, I guess that's Grace!" Power and water went out – and we were immediately thankful for the tip to have the bathtub filled with water for "washing and flushing".



The Pauls' backyard the morning after Grace.

We decided the perishables in the fridge would need to be eaten first and made a mental note of the order in which we'd eat them. Interesting what things you discuss during a hurricane!

In the meantime, cat. 1 Grace was wielding its fury around us, uprooting or snapping trees in half, blowing shingles off here and there, loosening a few boats that hadn't been moored well enough and sending them adrift, causing minor flooding, and causing some damage to houses.

Some waterfront properties had reported some water damage. But we can honestly say that we have been spared all of that, bar some tree damage and potentially minor damage to the roof where part of a tree had fallen onto it. Our little garden shed was covered with snapped-off branches but even that hasn't been damaged. Only the door had been blown open!

This really big tree used to cover a good portion of the yard. It



is nothing short of a miracle that it didn't fall on our house or the neighbor's house but into an empty lot behind the neighbor's house. It didn't even touch their fence!

Thanks and praise be to God that the two of us, all members of Safe Harbour and all Caymanians had been kept safe and dry. All around we've seen people cleaning up with a smile – they know it could've been much worse!

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Cayman Islands . . .

(continued from page 6)

Gerald had been in constant contact with them all throughout the storm, making sure all were ok and had what they needed. He also offered scripture and prayers of comfort. The day after, we drove around checking on members of Safe Harbour that had been hit harder than most. Leslie and Michele's yard was flooded, and a storage container filled with household goods broken open. Fortunately, they could save most things.

During the Divine Service on the Sunday after hurricane Grace we thanked and praised God for His protection throughout the storm and prayed for those in Mexico in Grace's path. We pray also for those in the USA suffering from the consequences of Grace, Henri and Ida. Lord have mercy.

~Gerald and Heidi Paul

Mission Report The Fritsche Family: A La Republica Dominicana

On August 16, 2021, the "Higher Things" website posted a video short (about 3½ minutes) by Pastor Joel Fritsche about the ministry in the Dominican Republic.

<https://higherthings.org/media/jz53jsq/0816-christ-s-mission-in-the-dominican-republic>

The mission of Higher Things-Dare to be Lutheran has been to support the church in passing on the faith by teaching the next generation the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Fritsche is currently serving as Secretary of Higher Things.

Mission Support

Dominican Republic Ministry Rev. Joel Fritsche & Family

To support the LCMS through the work of Joel & Clarion Fritsche, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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 Rev. Joel Fritsche." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/fritsche.

Cayman Islands Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul

To support the LCMS through the work of Gerald & Heidi Paul, you may send a tax-deductible gift to either address above.

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and marked "Support of Gerald Paul."

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on his online giving page at lcms.org/gerald.paul.



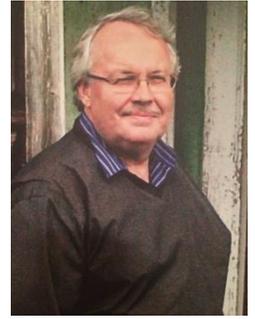
The Sound Team and the Media Team both need your help! Both teams are now down to 3 volunteers each. If each team had just one or two additional members, members would usually only serve one Sunday per month. The Sound Team also covers all the midweek services, so more volunteers for that Team would be particularly helpful.

Many of our members depend on the sound amplification and display screens to be able to comfortably follow the service liturgy and hymns.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering in the regular rotation or perhaps even as a substitute on occasion. Contact Ray Thomas for Sound, Barbara Szalkowski for Media, or the Church Office.



2021 Head for the Cure, Houston, Run For Rod



[Editor's note: Rod Anderson was an active member of Immanuel, serving as Congregation President at the time of his death in December 2013.]

We are excited to announce the 9th annual Head for the Cure Virtual 5K Houston on October 23, 2021. Our team races in honor of Rodney Anderson. Rod was treated at MD Anderson Cancer Center and funds raised go back to MD Anderson through the Brain Tumor Trials Collaborative. The Collaborative began in 2004; For more information about all of their great work please visit <http://www.bttconline.org> and <http://www.mdanderson.org>.

The cause is extremely close to us and we want friends and family to be able to celebrate Dad's life and memory. Head for the Cure is dedicated to raising funds and awareness for brain cancer research. Each year, over 200,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor. More than 120 types of brain tumors exist, making effective treatment complicated. Cutting edge research is needed as we continue to make strides in this fight.

The staff at MD Anderson was always caring and supportive. We had ups and downs throughout Dad's illness but he fought hard and the caring people at MD Anderson did everything in their power to treat his disease and ensure his quality of life. We were blessed by the extra time his care team was able to provide us with him. The brain cancer research trials he was able to participate in certainly blessed us with additional time.

Every Head for the Cure event marks a day of celebration where those diagnosed with brain cancer are honored and celebrated by their friends and families, those who have lost their battles are remembered, and we are all inspired to carry on the fight. Please consider joining our team and walking or running virtually with us, or making a donation today to help Head for the Cure defeat brain cancer, step by step!

~Love to all, Carrie, Jackie, Chris & Claire Anderson

To donate by check, make out to **Head for the Cure** and put **Run for Rod** in the Memo field and mail them to Jackie or leave it with Stephen in the church office. To join the team or donate online: https://secure.headfortheCure.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=13503&pg=team&fr_id=2001



October 2021



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Usher Team #1 9am Divine Service 10:30am Adult & Youth Bible Classes | 4 7pm Bible Study | 5 7pm Board Meetings 7:30pm Facility Rental (Gym) | 6 | 7 7pm Kantorei Rehearsal 8pm Carillon Ringers | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Usher Team #2 9am Divine Service 10:30am Adult & Youth Bible Classes | 11 Columbus Day | 12 7:30pm Facility Rental (Gym) | 13 | 14 7pm Kantorei Rehearsal 8pm Carillon Ringers | 15 | 16 2pm Facility Rental (Gym) |
| 17 Usher Team #3 9am Divine Service 10:30am Adult & Youth Bible Classes | 18 7pm Bible Study | 19 7:30pm Facility Rental (Gym) | 20 | 21 7pm Kantorei Rehearsal 8pm Carillon Ringers | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Usher Team #1 9am Divine Service 10:30am Adult & Youth Bible Classes | 25 | 26 7:30pm Facility Rental (Gym) | 27 | 28 7pm Kantorei Rehearsal 8pm Carillon Ringers | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Reformation Usher Team #2 9am Divine Service Social Ministry Offering 10:30am Adult & Youth Bible Classes 11:30am Reformation Fellowship Meal Fall Community Gathering | Fall Community Gathering Sunday Oct. 31 6-8:30pm | | | | | |



A Celebration of Autumn

FUN – REFRESHMENTS – TREATS

31 Oct
6:00-8:30 PM

**Volunteers welcome to help serve
and connect with the community**

Come join in the Celebration. We will be handing out candy, refreshments and Bibles to the community. We ask volunteers to wear masks as we will be serving our community. Candy donation drop off available in the narthex.

Contact Phil Nelson: Philiptnelson@gmail.com (508) 944-9982

Serving Immanuel September~October 2021

| | Sunday October 3 | Sunday October 10 | Sunday October 17 | Sunday October 24 | Reformation Sunday October 31 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Elder | Mike R. | Mike R. | Mike R. | Mike R. | Mike R. |
| Usher Team | #1 Larry G. Gerald O. Max B. | #2 Steve H. Lane H. Robert B. | #3 Ray T. Cory S. Joe M. | #1 Larry G. Gerald O. Max B. | #2 Steve H. Lane H. Robert B. |
| Media | Melissa T. | Barbara S. | Jackie A. | Melissa T. | <i>No Media</i> |
| Audio | Ray T. | Gerald O. | Max B. | Ray T. | Gerald O. |
| Altar Guild | Evelyn M. & Bonnie T. | Evelyn M. & Bonnie T. | Evelyn M. & Bonnie T. | Evelyn M. & Bonnie T. | Evelyn M. & Bonnie T. |

| | Sunday November 7 | Sunday November 14 | Sunday November 21 | Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday November 24 | Advent 1 Sunday November 28 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Elder | Steve H. | Steve H. | Steve H. | Steve H. | Steve H. |
| Usher Team | #3 Ray T. Cory S. Joe M. | #1 Larry G. Gerald O. Max B. | #2 Steve H. Lane H. Robert B. | #3 Ray T. Cory S. Joe M. | #1 Larry G. Gerald O. Max B. |
| Media | <i>No Media</i> | Barbara S. | Jackie A. | <i>No Media</i> | <i>No Media</i> |
| Audio | Max B. | Ray T. | Gerald O. | Max B. | Ray T. |
| Altar Guild | Margaret B. & Melissa T. | Margaret B. & Melissa T. | Margaret B. & Melissa T. | Margaret B. & Melissa T. | Margaret B. & Melissa T. |

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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TEXAS

Return Service Requested

To the Family of:

Witness, Mercy, Life Together ✝
In Christ, for the Church and the World

Reformation

LUNCHEON

Sunday, 31 October 2021

11:30AM

Please call the Church Office to Reserve Your Place
(713) 864-2651

Lunch to include Bratwurst, Cheesy Potatoes, and Cabbage.

