



IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

500 Immanuel Road  
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

February 2017 Newsletter for  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Church Office 251-4494

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Tom Kesselring, Senior Pastor  
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"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."  
**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

As we embark on a new year with a new council, (hopefully) approving a new church budget, a new 501-3c meeting here at Immanuel, I can't help but think of the old Captain and Tennille song, "Love will keep us together". (I give you permission to pause for a second, while you YouTube the song or sing the song in your head!). Maybe I'm thinking of love so much as I personally prepare for a new nephew in my family, or maybe it's the Girl Scout cookies on my brain or maybe it's because Valentine's Day is right around the corner. Whatever it is, I do know this- as I turn on my TV to watch the news each evening, just to ensure I know what's happening in our world, LOVE seems to be a word in short supply.

It got me to thinking about how rarely we authentically say "I love you" to other people each day. The word "love" appears 538 times in scripture. The little chart I found online indicated that this was more than the words "light", "pray" or even "sin". I have shared this before but in Greek there are 3 TYPES of words for love. *Eros*, which is sexual in nature, *philo* which is a friendship type of love. The one used here that Paul uses in his letter to Corinth he uses 9 times in 13 verses! This is the one most people know- *agape*, which is "a sacrificial love; an act of the will which places the welfare of others above the interest of oneself".

If you were to go back and read the passage above, keeping this definition in mind, I think it really changes its meaning. It is for this reason that many people select this verse when they marry- however, I don't think that's how Paul intended for it to be used! After all a marriage shouldn't be about "placing the welfare of one above/over another" but rather about an equal partnership. For Paul, he felt this definition was meant to teach us that "love" is the essential ingredient in the Christian life. His intent was to convey/teach that this "love" is meant to be superior to all other Christian gifts and virtues. On the surface this may seem like a really tall order, but I believe that it is through the work of Holy Spirit that enables us to love as Paul's "agape" implies. It is THIS love in which we should aspire to. It is THIS love that truly "never ends and endures all things". As our faith is nourished and grows, I believe we then gain the peace that can only come from Christ which then fuels our ability to love as Paul's "love"/"Agape" implies....sacrificially.

When you really think about it, there are many in our church who serve our church and community because they carry a passion or this "agape", sacrificial love for a certain cause. In a world which seems so consumed with commercialism and hatred, it is my prayer for you all that you find a way to share YOUR "agape" sacrificial love within our church and community. I believe when we are willing to sacrificially love all that we do as a church, then we are willing to do whatever it takes to support it- that could mean financially but it can also mean giving/sharing your time. I believe that our church still has much to offer within our community. We have much to be thankful for. When we work together we can accomplish great things. As the old Captain & Tennille song goes, "Love will keep us together". May your love of Christ, be strengthened each day to "agape" love each other as God does you.

Always an "agape" servant,  
Rosalina Rivera, Associate Pastor

Tired and Retired got together in January to welcome the new year with 30 present. Thanks to the Day School for entertaining with song: "Wise Man Built his House upon a Rock," "Out on the Deep Blue Sea" and "Jesus Loves Me". The January birthday prize was won by Carlton Lorring and the other two went to Pat Weiss and Verline Berkman. Pastor Rosy explained the Sunday School study this year on the Reformation.

Please join us on Wednesday, February 8th at 11:30 am for another potluck. We will be honoring the following February birthdays: Robert Avant, Joann Damstrom, George Davis, William Drum, Billy Glenn, Eldon Johnson, Gloria Kuempel, Lauren Moede, Susan Moellenberg, Jeanette Renken, Carol Smithe, Elenora Stark, Deborah Stover, Robert Tanner, Linda Volek, Betty Wolf.



The Women of the ELCA are asking for your help in collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the basic items a mother needs to keep her baby warm and clean. Baby Care Kits include the following **in sizes 6 - 24 months.** (Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new items - Note: Salvation Army Stores have half price sales every Wednesday!!!)

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts (onesies can be cut and hemmed/serged to make a t-shirt)
- Two long or short sleeved gowns/sleepers without feet (top and pant sets/P.Js may be substituted for gowns/sleepers; sleepers with feet can be donated and WELCA members will cut off the feet and hem the legs)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- Four cloth diapers (Walmart sales Gerber 10 pack cloth diapers for approximately \$12.00)
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap, in original wrapping (8 to 9 oz. total weight)
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

More information on Baby Care Kits is provided on posters around the church and visit <https://lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care/baby-care-kits>. Please place your donations in baskets located in the Lower Narthex or in the WELCA room. **Thank you for SERVING OTHERS.**

**Lutheran Legislative Event February 12-14, 2017:** The third Lutheran event will be at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Austin from Sunday at 2pm to Tuesday at 1pm. The program presentations give a full picture of how the Texas Legislature works, the issues that will be coming up in this 85th session, and our faith-guided role in advocacy. Texas Impact plans most of the program but two ELCA advocacy representatives will also present. Tuesday is at the Capitol. Registration is on our Synod website at [swtsynod.org](http://swtsynod.org). For any questions call Dorothy Kraemer, 512-251-6929.

**Spring Fundraiser 2017:** Come to the Annual Spring Student Ministry Fundraiser right here at Immanuel on **Saturday, February 18.** A fajita meal will be provided (thank you Holy Smokers!) as well as a supervised play area for all kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under. As always there will be a number of exciting items in the silent and live auctions and a couple of bonus chances to win prizes. The raffle prize is a \$500 Southwest Airlines Gift Card and the winner will be drawn (need not be present to win) that night! Back by popular demand - Chicken Poop BINGO!! Doors open at 5:30 and meal will be served at 6:00. Thank you for supporting the youth ministry at ILC!!

**The quilters** are missing some supplies (needles, pins and scissors) from the Conference Room closet. If you borrowed them or know where the supplies are, would you please put them on the table in the WELCA room. Thank you.

Dear Church Friends,  
Thank you so much for the nice calls, notes and visits over the last few months. It makes me smile when I think of each of you my special friends. A special thanks to Pastor Tom and Pastor Rosy for their visits.

**Peace and Prayers**  
**Jeanette Renken and Family**

**Mini-Treasurer's Report:**

**General Fund**

Balance 12/16/2016	\$ 5,067.67
Income 12/16-01/22	90,670.69
Expenses 12/16-01/22	<u>- 81,347.18</u>
Balance 01/23/2017	\$ 14,391.18
Loan Balance - Comerica	\$ 168,348.52
Loan Balance - First Texas	200,000.00
Balance Building Loan Checking Acct	\$ 42,957.08

**Day School:**

Balance 12/16/2016	\$ 36,821.61
Income 12/17-01/22	108,947.39
Expenses 12/17-01/22	<u>- 100,315.01</u>
Balance 01/22/2017	\$ 45,453.99

Anyone who wishes to make a contribution to the church in memory or honor of a loved one, may choose from the following funds:

- New Building Loan Debt
- Garden of Prayer/Labyrinth Fund
- Cemetery Endowment Fund
- Pre-Theological Fund
- Technology Fund
- Cemetery Fund
- Food Pantry

**Address Changes:**

DODSON, Ryan  
104 River Down Road  
Georgetown, TX 78628-8230

**Food Pantry News for December**

Number of clients assisted—110  
Number of Family Members—357  
New clients included—6  
Pastors Fund assists—7

**Pflugerville Lion's Club** is a strong supporter of the ILC Food Pantry. Their annual Chili Supper fundraiser is Friday, Feb. 17 serving from 5-8pm at 500 N. Railroad. Bring a friend and eat at the Hall or get it to go. \$10/person.

**Stewardship Committee:** The meeting was opened with a presentation, by Ralph, of an analysis of circumstances relating to the drop in attendance and giving that has occurred since 2012. In 2012 there were 16 transfers out; in 2014 was 45 and in 2014 was 23. Compared to 10 in 2010 and 5 in 2011. The average attendance for the same period was 323, 312, 297, respectively compared to 335 in 2010 and 323 in 2011.

Total receivables did not vary all that much across the same periods. What did vary was a major increase in the amount for designated giving between 2012 and 2014 reducing the amount for the general fund.

Ralph explained that he took the opportunity to talk with members of various committees and with coffee groups between services from November through December as to their take concerning the upcoming budget and problems, if any, each one felt might be contributing to lack of participation in church related activities, giving and attendance.

In summary, Ralph's conclusion was there is not enough transparency in the council actions, contributing to the lack of information which results in a great deal of misinformation that could well be the root cause of our problems.

Devorah Jakubowsky presented a proposed "Step Up Giving" approach to an increase in giving to meet the 5% increase in the 2017 budget. Ralph recalled that we had tried this several years past with minimal results. He would check the Stewardship minutes for that year and check the evaluation result to possibly avoiding making same mistakes. It was agreed we should give it try around Valentine's Day, with "the heart" in mind.

**"Blue Star Prayers"**

Our United States is defending Freedom in many parts of our world today. Please keep these individuals and their families in your prayers.

Daylon Hethcock US Navy	Justin Steffek, Msgt. US Air Force	Chase Bowden Serving in Iraq
Cyndi Motloch's Grandson	Marie Randig's Grandson	Paula Bowden's Son
Dan Dye Tx. National Guard	SSG Larry Jameson US Army	Cole Elliott US Navy
Pat & Jan Dye's Son	Bradley Jameson's Father	Yvonne Zimmer's Grandson
Elliott Bo Burns, Maj. US Army	Justin Hoffman, Lt. Col. US Air Force	Patrick Roberts, St/Sgt US Air Force
Willie Mae Burns' Grandson	Bob & Patti Hoffman's Son	Peggy Roberts' Grandson
Michael Wayne Green, Capt. US Marine Corp.	Michael Bradshaw US Air Force	Matthew R. Tiemann, Capt. US Marine Corps
Wayne & Aileene Saegert's Grandson	Glenn & Britta Herzog's Grandson	Rob & Carrie Tiemann's Son
Johnathan Edwards US Army	Kelsey Westman, 2nd Lt. US Army Reserves	
Beverly Wolff's Grandson	Betty Wicklund's Granddaughter	

## Day School Ministry News

THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE! LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!  
Psalm 118:24

We love singing this song at ILDS - it's especially cute to hear the little 2 year olds singing it, "Dis is da day dat da Ward has made. Yet us rejoice and be gad in it". And, what a fabulous reminder that song is! Every day is a blessing from our good and gracious God - let us celebrate and make the most of every day! At ILDS, we CHOOSE JOY and celebrate with our students every day. We participate in daily Chapel (at 930am every day in the gym - feel free to join us sometime!) which feeds us and allows the Holy Spirit to infuse all of us! Our Christ-centered curriculum and daily chapel are what set us apart from other day schools. Did you know that we are the only FULL-TIME Christian-based day school in the Pflugerville area!? What a blessing this ministry is to those we serve! We want to reach and connect with other families who are looking for Christ-centered, Jesus-inspired, Holy Spirit-infused setting that is ILDS. We LOVE adding new students to our ILDS family. So, please spread the word that ILDS IS ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS! And, we offer discounted tuition rates for ILC members! Like us on facebook, tell your neighbors, families and friends, etc. Help us share the good news!

### SAY WHAT!? FUNNY ILDS KIDS

- Maya dropped her cup and Mrs. Cleo was going to pick it up and Maya said, "It's ok, Cleo, I'll get it." (Starfish)
- Elijah walked up to Ms. Katie and asked, "Why did Jesus die on the cross?" Ms. Katie said, "Hmmm...well, what do you think?" Elijah immediately replied, "Because he was late to class." (Penguins)
- Ms. Nancy walked into the Sea Horse class and Aiden was so excited and said, "NANA MA-MA" (Sea Horses)
- Sawyer had a poopy diaper and he told Ms. Starr, "I pooped." Ms. Starr asked him, "Where does your poop go, Sawyer?" He turned around, backed up to Ms. Starr and pointed to his rear end. (Geckos)
- It was quiet time and Ms. Starr gave Addison a book to "read" as she laid quietly on her mat. Addison began to read it out loud. Ms. Starr reminded her that it was quiet time and after a few times of asking her to read quietly, Ms. Starr said, "If you're not going to read quietly, I'm going to have to put your book back on the shelf." Addison replied, "What book?" as she tried to hide the book behind her legs. (Geckos)
- Rece picked his nose and, like most kids his age (2 years old) he was examining what he found. Ms. Starr asked him to put it in a tissue and throw it away. Instead, he put it in his mouth and said, "MMMMM, it good." (Geckos)

In January, we were filled with excitement for a new year! Throughout the month, we learned several Bible stories - but one of the student's favorite is always the story of Noah's Ark. Also, in January, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we wore our favorite color to honor his dream of a color-blind world. John 15:12 says "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." At ILDS, we love unconditionally. We also celebrated 50's Day in honor of Elvis' birthday and Chinese New Year! In February, we look to have another awesome month. We'll focus on Heart & Dental Health (participating in a Toothbrush Swap with Dr. Bain), Valentine's Day and celebrate Mardi Gras!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. While we are focused on boosting enrollment to better help meet the financial needs of ILDS, we are super blessed, confident, faithful and hopeful of the things God has in store for us. We are a thriving ministry and we are focused on continuing to share the creative talents God has blessed us with. With the love of Jesus, an amazing staff and the loving support of families and friends, what can stop us!?

Anchored in Christ,  
Claudia Cardwell

**Immanuel Lutheran Day School Accepting New Students:** Do you have kids? Are you a member of ILC? Did you know that Immanuel Lutheran Day School gives a TUITION DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS? ILDS loves adding new students to our Day School family and we'd love to show you around. Or, if you know families who are searching for a Christ-centered day school with loving teachers and a very family-friendly environment, please send them our way. Spread the word that ILDS IS ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS! Like us on facebook, tell your neighbors, families and friends, etc. Help us share the good news and increase the reach of our ministry! GOD IS SO GOOD!



*From the Youth & Family Ministry Office...*

**Coming up...FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>....SPRING YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER!!!**

**What is it?**

Well, it's a FUND-raiser. Yes, it's a fajita dinner, live/silent auction, raffle drawing, kid's activities and chicken poop bingo...it's a good time and definitely fun, BUT it's about raising money to send our young people to summer camp, mission trips, youth gatherings and all other youth ministry related activities.

There is no meal ticket. Our very own Holy Smokers will be cooking up plenty of meat for a delicious fajita dinner. Bring your family, friends, neighbors and strangers...everybody's gotta eat. There will be a basket for donations for the meal, but really, just come and enjoy dinner and a GREAT time.

The Raffle is for a \$500 Southwest Airlines Gift Card. Tickets are a \$10 donation each, you can buy as many as you'd like! Really...we dare you to make us run out of tickets...

We've got some great silent/live auction items coming in...some wonderful handmade items by ILC members, some historical items related to ILC, Round Rock Express Tickets, gift baskets, photography, massages...much more!!

**Why come?**

**It takes a village.** -African proverb

As a community of faith we promise each and every one of our young people when they are at the font that we will support them in their faith formation. Immanuel is an amazing community that takes this seriously...and has quite a bit of fun while doing it! Any bit of financial support that we can offer to families is helpful. Some young people work enough hours on fundraising to pay for all of their camp/mission trip/youth gathering. Any support you can give is helpful!

When you come, check out the stories of our young people that will be on the tables. They will be sharing what it is that impacts their faith and how youth ministry at ILC has been formative for them. You might find something in the auction you like, you may end up coming home with yummy baked goods from our young people...however you contribute to our fundraiser - **you are investing in the life of a young person; a young person that makes a difference to our church, community and world!!**

**Join us for a great evening of fun, bidding wars, yummy dinner and suspenseful Chicken poop bingo!! Doors open 5:30pm - Dinner served at 6:00pm**

<>< **Live, serve and love boldly!**  
Katie Wegner,  
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

**February - 2017**

**Youth and Family Ministry Calendar:**

**Feb 5:** Sunday School - 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades - Youth Room @ 9:45  
Out to Lunch and Panic/Maze Room Outing  
Lunch + \$25

--Sign up by Wednesday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> - return to church by 5:00pm

**Feb 12:** Sunday School - 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades - Youth Room @ 9:45  
High School youth return from youth gathering at Camp Chrysalis

**Spring Fundraiser: February 18, 2017**

**Feb 19:** Sunday School - 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades - Youth Room @ 9:45  
Youth Committee meeting - 12:00pm - Youth Room; debrief Spring Fundraiser

**Feb 26:** Sunday School - 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades - Youth Room @ 9:45

**Save these dates:**

**\*\*Mark your calendars now\*\***

March 1 - Ash Wednesday  
March 3 - Austin Spurs Basketball Outing  
April 5 - Youth Hosted Soup/Sandwich Lenten Supper

## EDUCATION MINISTRY



## FEBRUARY 2017

### "Trust me"

How often have you heard these 2 words? My recollection is hearing them from my dad when he was encouraging me to jump off the side of the pool...**"trust me, I'll catch you"**... when I was a teen talking to my bff...**"you can trust me, I won't tell anyone"**...and as young adult trying to buy a car, **"trust me this is the best deal I can come up with"**... I have heard it from ex-husbands, **"trust me, I will take care of you"**...and hear it on the news from politicians, **"trust me, I will fix the problems"**...but most importantly I hear it from our Risen King, **"trust Me by relinquishing control into my hands. Let go and recognize that I am God"**....Sarah Young writes many devotionals and pairs one about "trusting me" with this verse:

*"Let be and be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth!"- Psalm 46:10*

I'm really trying to put aside my trust issues and trust in our Lord and Savior every moment of every day. How are your trust issues with Him?

### Parish Education Annual Report:

The entire Parish Ed ministry is heading into 2017 with great enthusiasm and teaching His Word in mind in everything we do. It always amazes me when I put together the annual report for this ministry the number of areas we are involved in...here they are: Sunday School for all ages, WELCA spring women's retreat, puppet ministry, Trunk or Treat, VBS, Tougher than Nails, Merry, Martha & Me, Charming Charlie fund raiser (which we will do, again), Sunday School Christmas Program, Rally Day, Teacher appreciation and Teacher training, small group studies, Secret Prayer Sisters...Is there something missing from your life? If you are looking for service opportunities let me know. We have MANY options to choose from. [susan@ilcpville.org](mailto:susan@ilcpville.org) or call my cell phone at: 512/567-0924.

When: Sunday, January 29th immediately following the 11am service.

Eat? Baked potato lunch provided by our youth

**IMPORTANT  
FOR ALL MEMBERS  
TO ATTEND**

# ANNUAL MEETING

Annual business meeting and voting on our 2017 budget. Please plan to attend. It's important to our church!

### Upcoming Dates:

January 29th @ 12p - Annual Church meeting (lunch provided by our youth)

April—Annual Women's retreat

June 19th through 22nd Family Style VBS and Tougher than Nails

September 10th—Rally Day

October 25th— Trunk or Treat (and Spooktacular)

November 16th—Merry, Martha & Me

December 10th—Sunday School Christmas Program

**Sunday School:** Classes for Pre-School through adult. Join us at 9:45am every Sunday. Our bulletin has the latest class topic and locations.

**REACH, TEACH, EQUIP while we GATHER, GROW, & SERVE**  
For more information about this ministry please email [susan@ilcpville.org](mailto:susan@ilcpville.org)

## Serving in February 2017

### Acolytes

Feb 5: Joshua Priem & MaKayla Leatherman (7:45) Elena Swenson & Sam Robar (11:00)  
Feb 12: Dominic Weber & Bryce Van Houten (7:45) Ethan Visness & Veronica King (11:00)  
Feb 19: Allison Thompson & Taryn Bittick (7:45) Cody Dubes & T.J. Odegaard (11:00)  
Feb 26: Julie Hodges & Marah Kluge (7:45) Katie Krause & Haidyn Damstrom (11:00)

**Elders for February:** Barbara Bohls (Early) Steve Barczi (Middle) Dave Gifford (Late). (Please contact them if you would like to assist with worship in February or go to <http://bit.ly/ILCsignup> to sign up yourself.)

### Readers

Feb 5: Pastor Rosy (7:45, 8:30 & 11:00)  
Feb 12: Candy Hansen (7:45) Nikolas Hamilton (8:30) Carol Fletcher (11:00)  
Feb 19: Annyce Bohls (7:45) **1 needed** (8:30) Debbie Wiederhold (11:00)  
Feb 26: **1 needed** (7:45) **1 needed** (8:30) **1 needed** (11:00)

### Communion Assistants

Feb 5: **1 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:30) Grace Lin, **1 needed** (11:00)  
Feb 12: Candy Hansen (7:45) Kristina, Nikolas, Sabastian Hamilton, **1 needed** (8:30) Carol Fletcher, **1 needed** (11:00)  
Feb 19: Annyce Bohls (7:45) **4 needed** (8:30) Grace Lin, **1 needed** (11:00)  
Feb 26: **1 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:30) **2 needed** (11:00)

### January Chapel Assistants

Early Service: Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing, Ralph Kirkley  
Late Service: Lon Duke (5), Bruce Freudenberg (12), J.B. Marshall (19), **1 needed** (26)

### Altar Guild

Feb 5 & 12	Feb 19 & 26
Bonnie & Mark Sassman, Kirsten Tindall, JoAnn VanBurkleo	Sharion Tanner, Trilba Eschberger, Jan Selman

### Ushers

Feb 5: Scouts (7:45) Scouts (8:30) Scouts (11:00)  
Feb 12: **4 needed** (7:45) Kristina, Nikolas, Sabastian Hamilton, **1 needed** (8:30) **4 needed** (11:00)  
Feb 19: **4 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:30) **4 needed** (11:00)  
Feb 26: **4 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:30) **4 needed** (11:00)

### Children's Message:

Feb 5: Pastor Rosy (8:30 & 11:00)  
Feb 12: Melissa Malinowski (8:30) Megan Freudenberg (11:00)  
Feb 19: Mike Maluschka (8:30) Debbie Wiederhold (11:00)  
Feb 26: Jennifer Hoffman (8:30) Megan Freudenberg (11:00)

### Console Operators/Parish Hall Projectionist

Feb 5: Charles Mott (7:45) Rick Cox (8:30) Willard Hebbe (11:00)  
Feb 12: Brent Reeder (7:45) Rick Cox (8:30) Charles Kleen (11:00)  
Feb 19: Matthew Krieg (7:45) Rick Cox (8:30) David Gifford (11:00)  
Feb 26: Brent Reeder (7:45) Rick Cox (8:30) Willard Hebbe (11:00)

### Coffee Makers

Feb 5: Hal Kuempel  
Feb 12: Mark Mueller  
Feb 19: Kristin Adix  
Feb 26: Lon Duke

### Flower Calendar

Feb 5:  
Feb 12:  
Feb 19:  
Feb 26: