



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

500 Immanuel Road
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

April 2018 Newsletter for
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Office 251-4494

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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In recent months our peace and security and the hopes and dreams and lives of people all across our land have been rocked by mass murders at music venues, churches and schools, and most recently by bombs that originated right here in our community. How do we see Jesus and experience the peace of Christ in the midst of our grief and pain and

despair? There is no simple explanation for the twisted behavior of the perpetrators, and there are no simple solutions to prevent these tragedies from happening. It is possible, though, to note some commonalities. The individuals responsible for the gun violence and bombs in the recent news have not been foreign terrorists acting on behalf of some radical religious ideology. They have been mostly young, white, American men, often from Christian families. In every instance they are individuals turned in on themselves with no regard for the lives of other people. To be turned in on oneself is the definition of original sin. To be concerned only for oneself is a temptation we all face. We confess our failure to love God and other people as we should. We are in need of a Savior.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9) Those words from scripture are familiar to Lutheran Christians. We begin nearly every worship service confessing that we are in bondage to sin and unable to free ourselves. Easter changes everything. Easter confirms that sin and death are defeated. For Jesus' sake, God forgives our human weakness and sets us free to live as God's children, at peace with God and with one another.

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive! He lives in you and me. As the body of Christ on earth, you and I are called to do what Jesus did, to give ourselves for the sake of others. Do you want to see Jesus in the midst of the pain and tragedy we experience? How might you touch the life of someone who is hurting with the love and compassion of Christ? Whether they are family members or complete strangers, when we open our lives to other people, when we see Christ in them and serve God by giving ourselves to them, they, by the grace and power of God the Holy Spirit, may see and experience the grace and love of God in us. Jesus is present in our lives and in our world. He's present when you see Christ in others; he's present when others see Christ in you. May it be true for you and for me, as we gather and worship, grow in the word, and serve God by serving people.

Pastor Tom

Easter Sunday - April 1st
Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m. (outside weather permitting)
Easter Breakfast served by High School Youth 8:00 a.m.
Family Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Worship/Communion 11:00 a.m.

Tired and Retired had twenty-five present in March. The Day School entertained fabulously with songs including "Peter, James and John in a Sailboat", "Jesus Loves Me", "The Wiseman Built his House Upon a Rock", "Zacchaeus", "I'm In the Lord's Army" and "Father Abraham". Dorothy Warren gave an update on the lower narthex renovation. Dana Leary spoke on the upcoming WELCA retreat to visit the painted churches in April. The birthday prize was won by Marilyn Lorfin and the others went to Betty Wicklund, Eleanor Holmes, Vernagene Mott, Jeanette Renken, Dorothy Warren, and Don Wiederhold. We closed with Pastor Tom leading us in a song about the time change and "You are Mine".

Please join us for the next Tired and Retired on Wednesday, April 11, for potluck at 11:30 a.m. We will have a special guest speaker from the Fire Department subject being Home Safety Checklist. We will be honoring the following April birthdays: Billie Becker, Howard Biar, Sammie Biar, Verline Bohls, Cynthia Bradley, Scott Casper, Rhondalee Donovan, Carla Feller, Janet Glenn, Mark Hardi, Mark Hodgson, Debra Kasper, Tom Kesselring, Irene King, Robert Lane, Carrie Lemke, Sally Nicholas, Gladys Pfluger, Cherryl Porter, Kenneth Powell, Jimmy Reed, Betty Reinhardt, Bonnie Sassman, Amy Singer, Edward Volek, Debra Wiederhold, Roselind Wieland, Margaret Wodrich, Bernice Zreet.

Women Of The ELCA

April's Bible Study is the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Again, the author approaches the parable from three different angles: N. American, Russian, and Tanzanian. These three views of the parable expands the participant's understanding. The crafters will meet at Candy Hansen's studio 9:00 April 2nd; the afternoon circle will meet at 2pm April 3rd in the narthex; the Mary circle will meet at 7pm April 3rd in members' homes; and, the Rebecca circle will meet 6:30pm April 3rd in the narthex. Please join us. Copies of the Gather magazine are available in the rack by the office. The magazine is also available online.

WELCA's Cause of the Month: Part of our April offerings will help provide food for our Cause of the Month, which is the Backpack Ministry. Our church serves Ruth Barron Elementary School.

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering is Tuesday, April 3rd from 9am-1pm at Palm Valley Lutheran Church. On April 4th our LWR boxes will be driven to TLU in Seguin for shipment to either Minnesota or Maryland. From these two locations our kits will be sent to areas of greatest need. Thanks to all who supported and made contributions to this ministry!

Upcoming Public Heritage Event: Heritage Center May Fest will be at New Sweden Church on Saturday, April 21st at 3 pm. Contact Marilyn Samuelson.

Immanuel's Quilters have been busy making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Last year we sent 113 quilts. Our next shipment will be after Easter. Thanks to all the ladies that make quilt tops and backs, help us tack them at church and those ladies that take the tacked quilts home to bind. A special thanks to Vernice Krueger who makes many of the quilts at her home. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the narthex at 8:30am. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 18th. We would love for you to join us for this very worthwhile project that helps people around the world. No special skills are needed.

Thanks to all who helped enhance our Lenten season this year....the kitchen crews, the soup makers, the bell choir, the ushers and the costumed characters: Moses - Ryan McKee, Nathan - Cole Puryear, Mary - Carol Smithe and Jaynette Odegaard, Paul - Chris Rankin, and Lydia - Roselind Wieland and Noel Eickbusch. Great job everyone!

For those who helped with this year's Walk to Calvary, **THANK YOU**. The experience wouldn't be so meaningful without the help of all of you. How lovely it is to be among fellow believers worshipping our Savior.

Annyce Bohls

Mini-Treasurer's Report:		
General Fund		
Balance 02/24/2018	\$	20,349.60
Income 02/24-03/21		57,169.76
Expenses 02/24-03/21	-	38,186.05
Balance 03/21/2018	\$	39,333.31
Building Maintenance Fund Balance	\$	121,404.55
Day School:		
Balance 02/24/2018	\$	52,861.46
Income 02/25-03/21		106,026.81
Expenses 02/25-03/21	-	99,100.75
Balance 03/21/2018	\$	59,787.52

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

- Garden of Prayer/Labyrinth Fund
- Cemetery Endowment Fund
- Pre-Theological Fund
- Technology Fund
- Cemetery Fund
- Food Pantry

Official Acts:

Death: 2/25—Andrew Shuvalov

Transfer Out: Scott, Kristen & Johnston Strecker to Edmond First United Methodist Church, Edmond, OK.

Food Pantry News for February

Number of clients assisted—84
 Number of Family Members—307
 New clients included—8
 Pastors Fund assists—N/A

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

From Your Church Council

From a worship perspective, March was a busy and exciting month; but from a Council perspective, it was pretty quiet.

During our March 20 meeting, we reviewed reports from staff, committees, and Treasurer Kenneth Adix. All of these reports are on file in the church office, and are available for review.

The Treasurer's Report revealed that giving to the General Fund in February, and for the year so far, is about 25% below the budget for which we all voted in January. While that budget called for a 20% increase over the actual giving in 2017, these early numbers for 2018 show that in the first two months, total giving has barely increased over last year. Now that ILC is debt-free, we again appeal to those who were contributing to our loan payments to consider shifting those gifts to the General Fund.

Last month, I reported that the Council had voted to use funds from the sale of the 6th Street Parsonage to begin several projects. The table below gives a progress update.

Project	Update
replacing the AC compressors for the Parish Hall kitchen and the lectern side of the sanctuary	complete
replacing downspouts for the sanctuary	complete
extending the fire alarm system to the Parish Hall	pending
replacing the refrigerator in the Parish Hall kitchen	complete
replacing the lighting in the gym with more energy-efficient LED lighting	installation began on March 26
refurbishing the monument sign at the front of our property	The sign has been ordered.

Additionally, the Lower Narthex will be closed during the week of April 9 as the Rejuvenation project begins. During that week, the flooring will be replaced, and the light-abating blinds and ceiling fans will be installed.

I close by repeating my invitation to attend committee and Council meetings each month. The meeting times and places for several committees are listed below. If you're interested in a group or committee that isn't listed, please contact the church office and you will be put in touch with a member of that group or committee.

- Long Range Planning - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Lower Narthex
- Day School - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., Conference Room
- Stewardship - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., Lower Narthex
- Worship and Music - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:15 p.m., Parlor
- Parish Education - 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Parlor
- Congregation Council - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Conference Room

Yours in Christ,
Chris Rankin
Council President

The Stewardship Committee: Following some discussion concerning worship and Sunday school attendance and lack of volunteers it was felt there was a need for a coordinated effort between committees and ministries in working on a solution rather than each approaching it from their respective committee. The committee considered community outreach events to introduce ILC to the neighborhood and Pflugerville in general. They also considered ways to approach members who may not attending. Also possible ways to encourage more members to volunteer.

It was also recognized that having three services does present unique problems in that on any one Sunday there is little fellowship between services. It was suggested that at least once a year ILC have only one Sunday service followed by a meal of sorts and fellowship. Something like a reunion of members.

Also suggested that ILC participate in the "National Night Out" by contacting adjoining neighborhoods to join together at ILC for a combined event. A possible Saturday evening service was discussed to provide an alternative to Sundays, where families are involved with other activities that require Sunday participation, such as sporting events. Other items discussed were committee nights and training sessions for ushers, readers and communion assistants.



From the Youth and Family Ministry Office...

As many of you know, I am currently in the midst of a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). This is a requirement of most all Masters of Divinity programs and a wonderful, yet challenging, experience that most all pastors have gone through. It is 400 hours of time, 100 curriculum hours and 300 patient contact clinical hours. I have had the privilege to serve at Seton Williamson and Seton Main off of 38th street.

Often, patients will ask me what it is like to be a chaplain or they ask me what are some of the most interesting things about working as a hospital chaplain. I have met so many people and seen some incredibly sad things and some absolutely inspiring things. Yet, there is something that stands out to me I'd like to share with you all.

I have come across folks with regularity who have said in one way or another..."If I don't _____, then God will punish me." Every time this gives me pause and strikes a place within my heart that just makes me sad. My job is not a corrective job nor is it a place that I launch into a lecture about how I believe Scripture tells us differently than that.

I share this with you because false notions like this about God don't erase themselves. It takes people to embrace the challenge and live in a way that shows something different. As the body of Christ, it is our responsibility to live in a way that would proclaim a testament to a God who is not a punishing God but a God steadfast in love and mercy; a God that abounds in grace.

We spent 40 days in the Lenten season singing Joel 2, "Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in **steadfast** love." And now we enter into the season of Easter. A season that lasts more than one day of celebration; a whole season of proclaiming that God defeated death. There is no need for punishment because through the death and resurrection of Christ the WHOLE WORLD has been reconciled to God.

We understand the nature and character of God to be "Because God loves us, therefore we can boldly live in service to God and neighbor"...**NOT**, "If I do right, then God will love me and not punish me". We do not live in fear of wrath and punitive action by God - we live free in the light of the Easter sunrise to declare that because of Jesus therefore we are free; we are free for living...we are free for serving...we are free for boldly loving the world that God so loves.

May you find ways to share that Easter light. May God the Holy Spirit remind you that God is ever present to comfort you, strengthen you and embolden you with courage to live in a way that is a testament to God's mercy, love and grace.

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

April - 2018

Youth and Family Ministry Calendar:

April 1 - Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast - Fundraiser for Puerto Rico Mission Team

May 6 - ILC Golf Tournament - High School Volunteers Needed!

May 19 - Confirmation Dinner

May 20 - Confirmation Sunday

June 3 - Graduate Recognition and Blessing Sunday

July 7-14 - Puerto Rico Mission Trip

July 15-20 - Summer Camp at Camp Chrysalis for 1-7th graders

EDUCATION MINISTRY

April 2018

Reach, Teach, Equip as we Gather, Grow, Serve

You are cordially invited to a spectacular event.....

Please join us as we help show kids (of all ages) what God's love really looks like, how it feels to be forgiven and loved for who you are, the peaceful feeling of His walking with you in life and how easy it is to serve your congregation.

75...that's the magic number of volunteers our program will need from June 11th—June 14th at our Family VBS and Tougher than Nails (aka "TTN") to be **SPECTACULAR!** Volunteer positions to be filled would include:

- Kitchen Clean up crews
- Song leader to introduce new songs and lead our Opening & Closing
- Guides to help take Pre-K through 4th grade aged kids around to each session
- Registration assistants to check in and register our students each night
- Welcome table attendants to help with name tags, logistics, greeting
- Recreation leaders to teach students games at each nights rotation
- Craft leaders to teach and help students with their evening craft
- Service Project leaders to work with students on our projects for outreach to our community
- Snack leaders to help make and serve snacks to our students every evening
- TTN guides to help students with their challenges and keep the teams moving from one event to the other
- TTN session leaders who will explain the event/rules/etc
- TTN score keepers who follow around to each event and keep track of team points
- TTN decorating and set up crew
- VBS decorating and set up crew

Sign ups for volunteers starting April 8th or email: susan@ilcpville.org or call: 512/251-4494

Grown Up Girls Spring Retreat: Fabulous ladies (sorry gents, LADIES only for this event) please join us for a day filled with fellowship, laughter and adventure. We'll meet at ILC parking lot at 8am on the 28th of April and head to Schulenburg, TX to explore the painted churches, have lunch, explore some more. Please RSVP to susan@ilcpville.org by April 23rd. Cost will be \$20/person PLUS cost of your lunch. (scholarships available if you need help with cost).

Parish Ed wants to know: What would it take to get all of the students who are members of our church to Sunday School? We'll be conducting a survey, making phone calls and making home visits during the summer to try and discern what type of programs we need to offer to get your kids (and you) to Sunday School or alternative programs during the week. Stay tuned for details...

Parish Ed Committee: meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30p in the Parlor. If you have any interest in what we are planning please join us at one of our meetings. Next meeting is April 2nd.

Upcoming Dates:

April 1st Easter, no Sunday School
April 28th—Grown up Girls Spring Retreat to Painted Churches (WOMEN ONLY, PLEASE)

Sunday School: 9:45a for Pre-K through adult. Church bulletin has details for all adult classes. Pre-K through 5th meets in the basement, Middle & High School meets in the Bistro by the gym.

Contact: susan@ilcpville.org for more information

Serving in April 2018

Acolytes

Apr 1: Shelby Weaver & Kyle Ward (11:00)
Apr 8: Landon Self & Allison Morris (7:45) Kadie & Bryce Van Houten (11:00)
Apr 15: Marah Kluge & Alyssa Motloch (7:45) Reese Krause & Hayden Damstrom (11:00)
Apr 22: Ethan Visness & Taryn Bittick (7:45) Madison & Sam Puryear (11:00)
Apr 29: Emerson Perisho & Ava Owen (7:45) Rex Kuempel & Elliott Weiss (11:00)

Elders for April: Garry Sjolander (Early) Mark Sassman (Middle) David Gifford (Late). (Please contact them if you would like to assist with worship in April or go to <http://bit.ly/ILCsignup> to sign up yourself.)

Readers

Apr 1: Mary Jo Beene (7:00) Mark Sassman (9:30) Katie Hudson (11:00)
Apr 8: Candy Hansen (7:45) **1 needed** (8:45) Michael Laakso (11:00)
Apr 15: Annyce Bohls (7:45) **1 needed** (8:45) **1 needed** (11:00)
Apr 22: Barbara Bohls (7:45) **1 needed** (8:45) T. J. Odegaard (11:00)
Apr 29: **1 needed** (7:45) **1 needed** (8:45) **1 needed** (11:00)

Communion Assistants

Apr 1: Mary Jo Beene & Kelly Knobloch, **1 needed** (7:00) Mark Sassman, **4 needed** (9:30) Grace Lin, **1 needed** (11:00)
Apr 8: Candy Hansen (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) Michael Laakso, **1 needed** (11:00)
Apr 15: Annyce Bohls (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) Grace Lin, **1 needed** (11:00)
Apr 22: Barbara Bohls (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) **2 needed** (11:00)
Apr 29: **1 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) **2 needed** (11:00)

March Chapel Assistants

Early Service: Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing, Ralph Kirkley
Late Service: **1 needed** (1) Bruce Freudenberg (8) J.B. Marshall (15) **1 needed** (22 & 29)

Altar Guild

Apr 1 & 8
Belia Cano, Martha Sansom

Apr 15, 22 & 29
Bonnie & Mark Sassman, Sharion Tanner

Ushers

Apr 1: Kelly Knobloch, **3 needed** (7:00) Mark Sassman, **3 needed** (9:30) **4 needed** (11:00)
Apr 8: **4 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) **4 needed** (11:00)
Apr 15: **4 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) **4 needed** (11:00)
Apr 22: **4 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) **4 needed** (11:00)
Apr 29: **4 needed** (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) **4 needed** (11:00)

Children's Message

Apr 1: Pastor Tom (9:30 & 11:00)
Apr 8: Mike Maluschka (8:45) Rebecca Dittmar (11:00)
Apr 15: Melissa Malinowski (8:45) Debbie Wiederhold (11:00)
Apr 22: Katie Wegner (8:45) Rebecca Dittmar (11:00)
Apr 29: Katie Wegner (8:45 & 11:00)

Console Operators/Parish Hall Projectionist

Apr 1: Rick Cox (9:30) Charles Kleen (11:00)
Apr 8: Brent Reeder (7:45) Rick Cox (8:45) Willard Hebbe (11:00)
Apr 15: Matthew Krieg (7:45) Rick Cox (8:45) David Gifford (11:00)
Apr 22: Vera Gebert (7:45) Rick Cox (8:45) Willard Hebbe (11:00)
Apr 29: Brent Reeder (7:45) Rick Cox (8:45) Charles Kleen (11:00)

Flower Calendar

Apr 1:
Apr 8:
Apr 15:
Apr 22:
Apr 29:

Coffee Maker for April:

Hal Kuempel