



**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

500 Immanuel Road
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

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The **IMAGE**, December 2014, Page
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December 2014 Newsletter for
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Office 251-4494

Tom Kesselring, Senior Pastor
Rosy Rivera, Associate Pastor
Katie Wegner, Director of Youth & Family Ministry
Susan Cox, Director of Education Ministry
Susan Varghese, Director of Day School Ministry
website:www.ilcpville.org

Our food for thought:

Christmas is the tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.



Wishing you and your family every blessing as we celebrate the birth of Jesus - our Lord, our Savior, our all.

Upcoming Holiday Events!!

Friday, December 5th - Progressive Dinner - 6:30pm (All Adult Event)

Saturday/Sunday, December 6th/7th - Luminary - 6:30-8:30pm

Sunday, December 7th - Christmas Caroling at Area Nursing Homes - after lunch at Pecan Street Deli. Singers of all ages are invited!

Tuesday, December 9th - All Committee Night Christmas Dinner - 6:00pm

Friday, December 12th - Day School Christmas Program - Parish Hall - 10:00am

Sunday, December 14th - Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins - after lunch at Pecan Street Deli. All ages are welcome!

Wednesday, December 17th - Sunday School Christmas Program & Dinner - Parish Hall - 5:30pm

Sunday, December 21st - Christmas Cantata - 8:45 & 11:00am - Sanctuary
No 7:45 or Contemporary Service

Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services - 6:30 & 10:00pm

Thursday, December 25th - Christmas Day Worship Service - 10:00am

Sunday, December 28th - Only 1 Worship Service—10:00am

Wednesday, December 31st - New Year's Eve Worship Service - 6:30pm

Tired and Retired enjoyed the November lunch with twenty-three present. Themes were both Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Becky challenged us with Thanksgiving questions and Pastor Tom led us in song. The Day School was great with songs about "The Lord's Army", "Sanctuary", "Albuquerque Turkey" and "The Lord is so Good". We were especially blessed by receiving red, white and blue art work from the Day School children. Thank you for thinking of us. The birthday prize was won by Vernagene Mott and the others by Victor Pfennig and Dottie Peirrier.

Next month will be Christmas parties all around, so won't you join Tired and Retired and wear your Christmas finest. We will have potluck on Wednesday, December 10 at 11:30 am. We will be honoring the following December birthdays: Edgar Bailey, Barbara Bohls, Leah Bohls, Baldemar Cano, Rachel Cauley, Jane Dunnigan, Jerry Eschberger, Vernetta Fuchs, Marta Gregory, Shirley Hamm, Cynthia Harlow, James Harlow, David Hustedler, Norman Johnson, Dana Leary, Lois Luedtke, Charles Mott, Ross Petermann, Judy Pfeil, Joy Pfluger, Johnny Pokorney, Sissy Pokorney, Harley Saathoff, Lola Sakewitz, Martha Sansom, Jan Selman, Sharion Tanner, Judy Tawater, JoAnn VanBurkleo, Keith Weiss, Lamar Weiss, Danny Whittington, Don Wolf, Gloria Wuthrich, Otto Wuthrich, Yvonne Zimmer.

Drive a Senior Christmas Choral Concert - Sunday, December 14th at 7:00pm: You are cordially invited to this annual musical event featuring choirs from local area churches. The location again this year is St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 3201 Sunrise Rd., Round Rock.

SAVE THE DATE! SENIOR FEST, Making a Difference, Saturday, February 7, 2015, at Bethany Lutheran Church, LC-MS, 3701 W. Slaughter Lane, Austin, TX 78749. Workshop opportunities (3 this year) will explore how we can indeed make a difference in our lives and the lives of others.

Drive-Thru Luminary: It is that time for our annual Luminary!! This year, it will be Dec. 6th and 7th from 6:30-8:30pm. Over a 100 volunteers are needed for this gift to the community, from scene characters, kitchen help, scene building and cedar cutting. There are tables set up in the breezeway to sign up. Please stop by the tables to see pictures of the scenes from years past, get your questions answered and sign up!!!

Food Pantry News for October

Number of clients assisted—176
Number of Family Members—564
New clients included—
Pastors Fund assists—17

Official Acts:

Baptisms: 11/2—Alexis Ann Seveska
Addison Grace Seveska
Lily Eileen Jones-Overby
11/16—Hunter Charles Scott

2015 Offering Envelopes will be available in early December. Please help yourself to a set and remember the envelopes **are not numbered**. Therefore, if you give cash, you will need to write your name on the outside of the envelope.

Annual Reports are due as soon as possible in December, BUT no later than Monday, January 5th. Email your information to sherri@ilcpville.org.

Thank You for Contributing to God's Global Barnyard. During VBS this summer our service project was Lutheran World Relief's program called "God's Global Barnyard." We talked about how various animals could make a huge difference in the lives of families in other parts of the world who are very poor and hungry. Each child took home a barn coin box to save money for this cause. When the coin boxes were returned in September, we had a total of \$706.73. A check for this amount was sent to Lutheran World Relief for them to use for the animals that were most needed. Thank you so much for supporting this worthy project.

God is Good. All the time. God is Good. With heartfelt thanks I give God praise and glory for all of our fabulous hostesses and handsome men who served each other and our guests at Merry, Martha & Me. It is a pleasure to serve our Risen King along side each of you. May He abundantly bless you this holiday season. Thank you so much!

Susan Cox

Thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry who gave their time and gift of making my blue & white long shawl. I enjoy the soft comfort it gives me. My cat enjoys the gift bag it was in. My medical concerns are still going on & still going to the doctor and having therapy.

Love and Seasons Greetings,

Bertha L. Hill

THANK YOU! I would like to express my appreciation toward Pastor Tom, Pastor Rosy and all Immanuel members for making my consecration service on November 9th, a meaningful and beautiful event.

Esme' Peterson

Diaconal Minister (ELCA) Specialized Ministry,
Chaplain at Seton Medical Center Williamson
(SMCW) in Round Rock, Texas.

Christmas Progressive Dinner will take place Friday, December 5th beginning at 6:30 pm. Due to the way the dates fall, this year's event is the night before Luminary again but we will plan to go back to the three stop structure (apps, main, dessert) as long as we can get the homes offered up. Please be on the lookout for the signup sheets in the Narthex now till December 5th for folks to indicate what they would like to bring. Some drinks will be provided but any "spirits" are BYOB. A White Elephant gift exchange will follow dessert. This event is for adults only and is always a lot of fun, so we encourage you to try and make it out. Please contact Mark Mueller at 512-924-8894 with any questions.

Our first Lutheran Legislative Event is coming up February 15-17, 2015 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Austin. Lutherans across Texas will come together to learn about legislative issues and how to advocate more effectively as people of faith. Texas Impact staff will be presenting the education sessions on issues. The timing is set for the third week of the Texas legislative session. The event is sponsored by the Poverty and Justice Task Force of our Southwest Texas Synod and registration is through the Synod website. Program details will be on the bulletin board or for more information call Dorothy Kraemer 512-251-6929.

Stewardship Committee: A class entitled "With Joy and Thanksgiving", will be led by Elizabeth Arndt. They will meet in the Cry Room on Sunday mornings from January 4th through January 25th during the Sunday School hour. Discussed running a Simply Giving Campaign during the month of January with possibly having a Thrivent representative present on Sunday, January 25th with material & information available to give members a chance to sign up.

"Blue Star Prayers"

Our United States is defending Freedom in many parts of our world today. Immanuel Lutheran is renewing an old custom of keeping track of our congregation's family members who are actively serving in our military forces. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Daylon Hethcock
 US Navy
 Grandson of Cyndi Motloch

SSG Larry Jameson
 US Army
 Father of Bradley Jameson

Elliott Bo Burns, Capt.
 US Army
 Grandson of Willie Mae Burns

Michael Wayne Green, Capt.
 US Marine Corp.
 Grandson of Wayne & Aileene Saegert

Chase Bowden
 Serving in Iraq
 Son of Paula Bowden

Michael Burkhart
 US Army
 Grandson of Robert & Joyce Burkhart

Patrick Roberts, St/Sgt
 US Air Force
 Grandson of Peggy Roberts

Justin Steffek, Msgt.
 US Air Force
 Grandson of Marie Randig

Dan Dye
 Tx. National Guard
 Son of Pat & Jan Dye

Justin Hoffman, Lt. Col.
 US Air Force
 Son of Bob & Patti Hoffman

Michael Bradshaw
 US Air Force
 Grandson of Glenn & Britta Herzog

Nicholas Bownds, E-2
 US Navy
 Grandson of Janet & Billy Glenn

Matthew R. Tiemann, Capt.
 US Marine Corps
 Son of Rob & Carrie Tiemann

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

- We're Reaching Fund (New Building)
- Garden of Prayer/Labyrinth Fund
- Cemetery Endowment Fund
- Pre-Theological Fund
- Technology Fund
- Cemetery Fund
- Food Pantry

Mini-Treasurer's Report:	
General Fund:	
Balance 11/18/2014	\$ 11,919.54
Income 10/21-11/18	43,041.75
Expenses 10/21-11/18	<u>- 49,518.41</u>
Balance 11/18/2014	\$ 5,442.88
Offering General Fund <i>Budgeted</i> January-November 16, 2014	\$ 436,325.35
Offering General Fund <i>Received</i> January-November 16, 2014	\$ 409,963.16
Building Loan Balance 11/18/2014	\$ 487,377.23
Building Loan Checking Account 11/18/2014	\$ 47,648.52
Day School:	
Balance 10/20/2014	\$ 41,074.96
Income 10/21-11/18	65,534.49
Expenses 10/21-11/18	<u>- 70,923.37</u>
Balance 11/18/2014	\$ 35,686.09



From the Youth & Family Ministry Office...

We are familiar with the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) and how the implications of that parable call us into action to show mercy to ALL people. Remember that the parable comes as a response to the rich man's question, "but wanting to justify himself he asked Jesus "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

Maybe we also ask the same question. Who do we really need to serve? Who really are we supposed to reach out to and love? Jesus' answer is clear - everybody. Even those who are different from you. Even those whom you aren't supposed to get along with.

Hopefully most all of our congregation is aware of the opportunity that we got last spring to serve our neighbor Ruth Barron Elementary school with the Backpack Pfriends ministry. This school, just off of Howard, is practically our literal neighbor. God is certainly working and using our resources to help feed these precious kiddos over the weekends.

A few months ago now - I got to thinking, "What would it look like to embrace this community of Ruth Barron with more than food backpacks for the weekend?" Certainly we can pray for them. We were able to do a Thanksgiving meal for them.

We got connected with the counselor and got to provide Christmas gifts for them.

Tags are still up and gifts due back Dec. 14th. You are welcome to make a monetary donation as well for shopping efforts of tags not taken.

We have just tipped the iceberg of what it would look like for our community of Immanuel to embrace the community of Ruth Barron Elementary and serve them and the families that they serve. What other dreams could we make reality to invest into the lives of the students who go there and the families of that community? Let's think about this, let's pray about this. How will God stir us to serve our neighbor?

<>< **Live, serve and love boldly!**

Katie Wegner,

Director of Youth and Family Ministries

December - 2014

Youth and Family Ministry Calendar:

Dec 6 & 7: Luminary!

Dec 7: High School Mission Trip Informational Meeting - discussing Puerto Rico opportunity, 12:00pm - Youth Room

Dec 7: Cookie Decorating Event - 2-4pm - \$5/child All ages of children are invited, sign up and bring money by Nov. 29th

Dec 14: Youth Committee Meeting 11:00am - Youth Room

Dec 21: Youth Christmas Party - 12:00pm - 2:00pm - Youth Room

Bring \$5 for a Christmas service project J

Lunch will be provided

Dec 28: No Sunday School - One Worship service at 10:00am

Other important dates:

-2015-

Jan 9-11: High School Synod Youth Gathering @ Camp Chrysalis

Jan 11-23: Katie Out of the Office - J-term Intensive @ Luther Seminary

Feb 14: Spring Student Ministries Fundraiser

Dinner, silent and live auction, kids play area and raffle

Mar 14-18: Spring Break Mission Trip to Dallas, TX

Apr 4/5: Set-Up and Bowling/Easter Breakfast

**EDUCATION
MINISTRY**



**DECEMBER
2014**

A beautifully written poem to song by Martin Luther captures the true meaning of Christmas. I pray that amidst all the hustle and bustle of this holiday season you and your family can share your love for our Risen King with others who might not have an ongoing relationship with Him. Merry Christmas to you and yours. May God bless you abundantly!

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

From heaven above to earth I come. To bear good news to every home; Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild; This little child, of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.

This is the Christ, our God and Lord, Who in all need shall aid afford; He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below, That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.

These are the tokens ye shall mark: The swaddling-clothes and manger dark; There ye shall find the Infant laid By whom the heavens and earth were made.

Now let us all with gladsome cheer Go with the shepherds and draw near To see the precious gift of God, Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.

Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes! What is it in yon manger lies? Who is this child, so young and fair? The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest! Thou com'st to share my misery; What thanks shall I return to Thee?

Ah, Lord, who hast created all, How weak art Thou, how poor and small, That Thou dost choose Thine infant bed Where humble cattle lately fed!

Were earth a thousand times as fair, Beset with gold and jewels rare, It yet were far too poor to be A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

For velvets soft and silken stuff Thou hast but hay and straw so rough, Whereon Thou, King, so rich and great, As 'twere Thy heaven, art throned in state.

And thus, dear Lord, it pleaseth Thee To make this truth quite plain to me, That all the world's wealth, honor, might, Are naught and worthless in Thy sight.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled, Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

My heart for very joy doth leap, My lips no more can silence keep; I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle-song:

Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us His Son hath given! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Date to Remember...December 17th - Christmas Program (w/ dinner) 5:30p—7:30p

REACH, TEACH, EQUIP while we GATHER, GROW, & SERVE

Serving in November 2014

Acolytes:

Dec 7: Whitney Morris (7:45) Zane Kuempel (11:00)	Dec 25: Preston Ruess & Daulton Swenson (10:00)
Dec 14: Samuel Rachui (7:45) Corey Kuempel (11:00)	Dec 28: Kalie Tovar & Dylan Van Houten (10:00)
Dec 21: Ally Puryear (8:45) Alyssa Randazzo (11:00)	Dec 31: Hayden Perry & Nathalie Ward (6:30)
Dec 24: Reed Reiland (6:30) Benjamin Weiss (10:00)	

Elders for December: Barbara Bohls (7:45) Marie Davis (8:45) Lon Duke (11:00)

Readers

Dec 7: Marie Davis (7:45) **1 needed** (8:45) **1 needed** (11:00)
 Dec 14: Annyce Bohls (7:45) **1 needed** (8:45) **1 needed** (11:00)

Communion Assistants

Dec 7: Marie Davis (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) Grace Lin, Jonathan Duke, **3 needed** (11:00)
 Dec 14: Annyce Bohls (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) Jonathan Duke, **4 needed** (11:00)
 Dec 21: **5 needed** (8:45) Grace Lin, **4 needed** (11:00)
 Dec 24: Grace Lin, Kurt & Judy Schwartz, Mary Jo Beene, Becky Boyer (6:30) Merle Weiss, Neal & Barb Weiss, Rick & Susan Cox (10:00)
 Dec 25: Grace Lin, Annyce Bohls, Dave & Jean Gifford, Janelle Hebbe (10:00)
 Dec 28: Doug Nowotny, Ken, Amy & Michael Singer, Britta Herzog (10:00)

Chapel Assistants

Dec 7: Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing, Ralph Kirkley (7:45) Lon Duke (11:00)
 Dec 14: Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing, Ralph Kirkley (7:45) Bruce Freudenberg (11:00)
 Dec 21: Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing, Ralph Kirkley (8:45) J.B. Marshall (11:00)
 Dec 24: Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing, Ralph Kirkley (6:30) **1 needed** (10:00)
 Dec 25: Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing, Ralph Kirkley (10:00)
 Dec 28: **1 needed** (10:00)
 Dec 31: **1 needed** (6:30)

Altar Guild

Dec 7 & 14	Dec 24	Dec 21 & 28
Diane Moellenberg, Autumn Hendrickson, Sherry Sullivan	Grace Lin	Britta Herzog, Janelle Hebbe

Ushers

Dec 7: Ron & Susan Moellenberg, Brent & Deborah Reeder (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) Lon Duke Family (11:00)
 Dec 14: Ron & Susan Moellenberg, Brent & Deborah Reeder (7:45) **4 needed** (8:45) Lon Duke Family (11:00)
 Dec 21: **4 needed** (8:45) Lon Duke Family (11:00)
 Dec 24: Pat Roughton, Kurt & Judy Schwartz, Dave Bloemker (6:30) Cheri Murray, Kelley Knobloch, Terry & Phyllis Gibich (10:00)
 Dec 25: Mark & Bonnie Sassman, Trelton Bohls, **1 needed** (10:00)
 Dec 28: Doug & Randa Nowotny, Ken & Amy Singer (10:00)
 Dec 31: James & Barbara Bohls, Courtney Emken, **1 needed** (6:30)

Children's Message:

Dec 7: Stacy Mueller (8:45) Ann Mitchell (11:00)
 Dec 14: Melissa Malinowski (8:45) Ann Mitchell (11:00)
 Dec 28: Pastor Rosy (10:00)

Console Operators/Parish Hall Projectionist

Dec 7: Charles Mott (7:45) Rick Cox (8:45) Willard Hebbe (11:00)
 Dec 14: Brent Reeder (7:45) Rick Cox (8:45) Charles Kleen (11:00)
 Dec 21: Matthew Krieg (8:45) David Gifford (11:00)
 Dec 24: Brent Reeder (6:30) Willard Hebbe (10:00)
 Dec 25: Charles Kleen (10:00)
 Dec 28: David Gifford (10:00)
 Dec 31: Matthew Krieg (6:30)

Coffee Makers

Dec 7: Hal Kuempel
 Dec 14: Mark Mueller
 Dec 21: Kristin Adix

Flower Calendar

Dec 7:
 Dec 14:
 Dec 21:
 Dec 28: