



**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

500 Immanuel Road
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

February 2021 Newsletter
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Friends of Immanuel,

I want to thank those of you who were able to attend our Congregational Annual Meeting last Sunday. The weather was drizzly and wet, but we luckily avoided real rain. I am told we lost count of voting members present at about 80-90 people. The turnout was great!

I am so pleased that we were able to conduct our business and be on our way in about 35 minutes. It must have been one of the shortest annual meetings ever!

We re-elected one incumbent and elected four new council members for the 2021 Church Council Committee. The budget was presented with questions and concerns answered days prior to the meeting and this allowed for a quick vote of approval. We have a 2021 nominating committee of two and we also have two representatives for the 2021 Synod Assembly. This year the Synod Assembly will be an on-line meeting rather than in-person.

While we can improve the "Drive-In" meeting process, I was really pleased that we accomplished the necessary agenda items safely and we were able to meet in-person. Many attendees commented to me that they thought the meeting went well and we should consider this format for other events in the future. Our members also felt a surprising sense of togetherness. It seemed to be a good experience for all!

As the meeting progressed and as votes were announced, car horns started honking to affirm the results. All the honking caught me by surprise at first. It turned out to be really funny and it was a highlight of the meeting.

I also want to thank the church staff, council members and some other volunteers for making this meeting happen. Good work everyone!

We have another meeting scheduled for February 7th at 1pm to vote to approve a new senior pastor for Immanuel. His name is Matthew Groenke. His bio is being distributed to our members and we hope to have a link to a video available for viewing soon. The meeting will be the same drive-in format.

Please plan to attend this meeting and look for more information about the pastoral candidate.

In Christ,

Brent Reeder

Save the Date!!

We will have a Special Congregational Meeting to consider and vote to call Pastor Matthew Groenke as our Senior Pastor on February 7 at 1:00 pm. More details to follow. We will be sending out a special Connections with a bio and additional information soon. Please see Pastor Groenke's bio on page 2.



Pastor Matthew Groenke's Bio



Proposed Pastor Compensation Package	
Salary:	
Cash Salary	\$84,000
Social Security Offset	6,426
Total Salary	\$90,426
Benefits:	
Health Insurance - Family Coverage	\$35,064
Retirement - 10%	9,043
Disability	1,356
Basic Group Life	633
Total Benefits	\$46,096
Special Allowance:	
Car (\$100 per month)	1,200
Total Annual Compensation	\$137,722

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! My name is Pastor Matthew Groenke and I am a candidate for the senior pastor position at Immanuel. I have a Bachelor of Music from Capital University and a Master's of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. I have been a pastor in the ELCA for 22 years and have served congregations in Michigan, Texas, Nebraska, and Ohio. I have been married to Julie Groenke for 23 years and we have three sons; Adam(20), Elijah(16), and Jeremiah(13). We have a one year old puppy named Lewis who is a Beagle mix. Some of my hobbies include singing, reading, golfing, watching movies, and cheering on my favorite sports teams. Having been born and raised in Ohio, I am loyal to my Cleveland professional sports teams and the Ohio State Buckeyes.

2021 Church Council and Representatives

Below is a list of ILC's 2021 Church Council, Synod Representatives, and the Nominating Committee. The council will be voting for each committee chair soon but the Executive Council will be staying the same.

Council President: Bret Reeder
 Vice President: Devorah Jakubowsky
 Secretary: Amy Singer
 Treasurer: David Hufstedler

James Kuempel was re-elected to a council position along with new council members Deanna Davis, Matthew Krieg, Aaron Leu, and Melissa Malinowski.

Synod Assembly Representatives this year will Pat Roughton and Debbie Wiederhold and the Nominating Committee Representatives will be Barbara Bohls and Erik Hendrickson.

Community News

COVID-19 Vaccinations

We've got some exciting news to share! The Pflugerville Rec Center will be a vaccine "hub" to distribute the COVID -19 vaccines. This will be done through Austin Public Health. You will need to go to the link below and register. Once you receive an email that you qualify for the vaccine, you will be able to start looking for an appointment. These appointments go very fast so you will need to check often for available appointments. These appointments are posted once each hub receives confirmation that they will be getting more vaccines. There will be NO walk-in opportunities at this time. Austin Public Health has asked us to be patient as they are approving those at most risk first. Once those at risk patients have completed their vaccinations, more positions will open up to others.

Register Here: https://covid19.austintexas.gov/s/?language=en_US



WELCA - 2021

Immanuel Lutheran Church

WELCA January Circle Bible study was held on Zoom with sixteen ladies present. The study was led by Bonnie Sassman. The theme January thru April is angels.

The February study will also be on Zoom, February 2, 6:30 pm, led by Ruth McDonald. The theme will be "Repentance and route-changing angels"

Thanks to all of the ladies who have led our Bible studies during the time away from in person meetings.

In March our Circles will meet in person and on Zoom. The Bible study theme will be "Loneliness, abandonment and holy comfort" led by Sharion Tanner. This will be WELCA's General Meeting held on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 pm.

Thankoffering- this year we will be distributing "barnyard banks" for use throughout the year until October 17 when the service will take place. The kiddos can color them if they wish. We will be handing them out on Ash Wednesday and Easter drive-throughs. They will also be available in a tub outside of the church office.

Stamporee- please continue collecting those stamps, there is a collection box placed in the Gather room for your use.

Lutheran World Relief- also please continue your LWR wonderful contributions, items needed are always listed in the Connections and IMAGE.

Thanks for all you do to support the Women of the ELCA at ILC.

Janelle Hebbe, Unit President

Lutheran World Relief - February

During January and February, the Women of the ELCA will be collecting items needed for Lutheran World Relief for the Baby Care Kits. We hope you will consider donating some of the kit pieces listed below. The items requested provide only the Basic Necessities that will help a mother keep her baby warm and clean. Clothing items must be for **sizes 6 months-24 months**; they don't have to be new/gently used/clean items/ (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new items.

- Lightweight cotton t-shirts (No onesies)
- Long or short sleeved gowns/sleepers without feet (Top and pant sets or pajamas may be substituted for gowns/sleepers; sleepers with feet can be donated and WELCA members will cut off the feet and hem the legs).
- Receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to "52" sq (Fleece blankets are no longer accepted)
- Cloth diapers (Walmart and Amazon have Gerber 10 pack cloth diapers for approximately \$10; You can also sew diapers from flannel material or old t-shirts. For instructions visit <https://lwr.org/downloads/diaper-tip-sheet>
- Hand towels, dark color recommended
- Bath-size bars of gentle soap in original wrapping
- Diaper pins or large safety pins

For more information on Baby Care Kits please visit <https://lwr.org/kits/baby-care-kits/instructions>. Donations can be dropped off in the WELCA Room or the Lutheran World Relief plastic tub located outside the Church Office. **Thank you for SERVING OTHERS.**



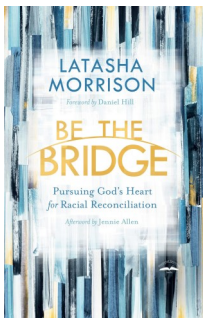
What's Happening at ILC?

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will hold its next meeting online at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 13. All are welcome to as we knit/crochet comfort for others and enjoy each other's company. Contact Bonnie Sassman at bsassy55@aol.com or Elizabeth Arndt at earndt0@gmail.com for more information.



Book Club in February!

The ILC Anti-Racism group invites **you** to attend our 3 week book discussion on [Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation by Latasha Morrison](#) available fine booksellers. Each Thursday at 7pm we will meet via zoom to discuss our thoughts on the ministry for racial reconciliation laid out in this book.



- February 18 discussion via Zoom:
The Bridge to Lament (Chapter 1 - 3)
- February 25 discussion via Zoom:
The Bridge to Confession and Forgiveness (Chapter 4 - 6)
- March 4 discussion via Zoom:
The Bridge to Restorative Reconciliation (Chapter 7 - 10)

Each chapter has questions for reflection and discussion that we will use to guide our discussions. We look forward to seeing **you** there! If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact Elizabeth Arndt at earndt0@gmail.com or 512-619-5572.

Ruth Barron Elementary Angel Tree



A HUGE THANK YOU needs to be given to those of you who helped out with the Angel Tree Program this season. We were able to sponsor and gift **40 children** from Ruth Barron Christmas presents this year who may otherwise not be able to afford it. Christmas wishes were granted, smiles were prompted, and love was shared. I was truly overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and generosity shown by this congregation. I know this Christmas will be that much more special for those families we were able to support.

From Proverbs 11, "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." You all have truly given blessings out and I have faith that blessings will come back ten-fold on our congregation for it. Thank you so much for living out the love of our neighbors!!

Backpack Ministry

Happy New Year from the Backpack Ministry! It is such a blessing that ILC is participating in this outreach that is providing a weekly bag of food to at-need students at Ruth Barron Elementary. A sign up sheet will be the office. A big thank you to all volunteers and your support.

Once again there is a request for:

- Food items: canned ravioli and spaghetti & meatballs, canned chicken noodle soup, granola bars, small (8 oz.) cans of fruit, microwave Mac n cheese, peanut butter crackers, microwave popcorn, individual packages of Goldfish crackers and individual.
- Volunteers to fill bags with the food items the first part of the week.
- Volunteers to deliver those bags of food at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays.
- Monetary donations
- Prayers for the Backpack Ministry

This-N-That



Offering Envelopes

The annual offering envelopes can be picked up in the church office during the week. There are also several envelope books in the communications tub outside the church office. Please feel free to drop by and pick one up at your convenience.

Donor Statements

Donor Statements were mailed out last week so be on the look out! We also emailed the statements to those who we have an email on file for. In the future, if you would like communications by email, please make sure and update the church office with your email address. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your statement, please contact the church office. For those of who gave "In Kind" gifts, you will be receiving a separate statement for this.

Future Communications

If you are receiving any communications via mail but are also connected electronically and prefer that, please let us know if we can take you off our mail out list. We continue to look towards ways of being good stewards!



Church Keys

If you have a key to the church or the gym, please email the office and let us know. We are not looking to get these keys back but would like to have a list of members who have keys in the event we need to change a lock so we can make sure to get your key replaced.



"Blue Star Prayers"



Our United States is defending freedom in many parts of our worlds 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 Grandson	SSG Larry Jameson US Army Bradley Jameson's Father	Cole Elliott US Navy Yvonne Zimmer's Grandson
Matthew R. Tieman, Capt. US Marine Corps Rob & Carrie Tiemann's Son	Justin Hoffman, Col. US Air Force Bob & Pattie 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	Devon Hethcock US Marines Cyndi Motloch's Grandson
	Rory Korzeniewski US Marine Corp. Cyndi Motloch's Grand-son-in-law	

Chicken Soup For the Soul

Soothing chicken soup won't cure COVID-19 but certainly is a warm reminder of the FOOD, Fellowship and Faith traditionally experienced during past Lenten mid-week Soup & Sandwich. Several recipes submitted by members are shared below for you to try during our virtual Wednesday services Feb 24, Mar 3,10,17 and 24. Additionally, consider calling a member and share a worthy story of kindness (*Chicken Soup for the Soul* has a hopeful series).

Recipe

Made with Love

Title: Tortellini Soup

Ingredients: 2 tsp butter

1 carrot chopped

2 stalks celery

2 cloves garlic minced

1 small onion chopped

1 pkg tortellini (your choice)

Parmigiano Reggiano cheese w/rind

8 cups chicken broth

2 cups baby spinach

1/2 tsp nutmeg

1/2 tsp pepper

Salt & Pepper to taste

3 cups water

Directions: Melt butter in pan. Add carrot, celery, onion. Cook till softened. About 8-10 minutes. Add garlic. Add broth, water, cheese rind. Heat to boil. Add salt, pepper, nutmeg. Add tortellini. Cook till al dente per pkg. Remove rind if any left unmelted. Add spinach. Serve with grated parmigiano reggiano cheese and crusty bread.

Recipe shared by Pamela Stephenson

Recipe

Made with Love

Title: Cowboy Soup

Ingredients: 1 1/2 lbs. browned ground beef

3 cans minestrone soup

1 can ranch style beans

1 can water

1 can rotel

salt & pepper

Directions: Place in crock pot for 8 hours on low. Top with cheese.

Recipe shared by Bonnie Sassman

Recipe

Made with Love

Title: Split Pea Soup

Ingredients: 2 tsp butter

1/2 onion diced

2 ribs celery diced

Salt & Pepper

1 bay leaf

1 lb. dried split peas

1 qt. chicken broth

diced carrots optional)

3 cloves garlic diced

1 lb. ham

2 1/2 cups water

Directions: Before using peas, sort through them for any that might be shriveled or pieces of hull. In large soup pan, melt butter and add onion, celery, garlic, and carrots. Cook slowly until onions are translucent but not brown, about 5-8 minutes. Add ham and bay leaf to pot and stir. Add peas, chicken broth, water, salt, and pepper. Stir in to combine. Simmer until peas are tender, approximately 1 hr. 15 minutes. Stir occasionally. Remove bay leaf before serving.

Recipe shared by Marta Gregory

Recipe

Made with Love

Title: Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients: 4 cups chicken Stock

1 1/2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. parsley

1/2 tsp thyme

1 cup minced onion

3 minced cloves garlic

4 cups canned pumpkin

1/2 cup half & half and 1 1/2 cups milk

Directions: Cook for 1 hour or more. Cool, Puree in a blender. Return to pot and bring to a boil to warm. Serve with French bread loaf. Enjoy!

Recipe shared by Sherry Wukasch

We love because
He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

EDUCATION MINISTRY February 2021

February is here and it is always a month filled with love! God Loves You! Love is a simple word that has the power to do great things. Love brings people together, love creates families and churches, love gives us a purpose, love guides and shapes our lives, and love is the foundation for why we are all on this Earth. Love unites all of us together, even if we don't speak the same language. Love is the gift of God that continuously brings us all together.

God's love will always be by your side as a loyal companion. God's love is unwavering as the sun rises each day. God's love is constant. God will always be there loving you throughout your life and into the beyond. God share's his love freely with all of his children, including you.

I hope you choose to share your love of God and the Holy Spirit with others this month! Maybe find a new way to demonstrate your love or talent to another, possibly by teaching the youngest members of ILC one week in Sunday School or a children's message! I look forward to continue to gather together in spirit, grow in God's word together, and serve God by serving / loving others!

Melissa Weiss Parry

Secret Prayer Sisters 2021



Secret Prayer Sisters for 2021 will begin in February! You will pray for a sister in Christ for a year and then another sister prays for you! You send anonymous cards and encouragement throughout the year. To join this wonderful group of prayer warriors, email Melissa Parry, by February 15 at melissap@ilcpville.org or sign up online at: <https://forms.gle/MDRS6qnav9TMkGLy9>

Lenten At Home Calendar / Devotional

This lent, pick up your free at home calendar and devotional created by Melissa Parry. Pick up is under the covered driveway outside the church office doors in the blue box labeled other communication.

Enjoy!



Sunday School for all ages

Age 2—5th Grade: Zoom online Sunday morning from 10:30 am - 11:00am

CAN YOU HELP BE A PREK-TEACHER, EVEN FOR ONE WEEK?

It's easy and I will send you the lesson! Contact Melissa Parry, melissap@ilcpville.org

Middle School: Zoom online Sunday morning from 11:30 am - 12:00 pm

High School: Zoom online Sunday afternoon at 5:30 pm

Adult Class, "Pathfinders": Zoom online Sunday morning from 10:30 am -11:30 am
"Relevant Topics of Today!"

Zoom links are in the weekly email Connections Newsletter.

No Classes March 14, 2021, Spring Break

Melissa Weiss Parry, melissap@ilcpville.org