



IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

500 Immanuel Road  
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

January 2024 Newsletter  
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Connect with us!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Church Office (512) 251-4494  
[www.ilcpville.org](http://www.ilcpville.org)

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmanuelLutheranChurchofPflugervilleTexas>  
[www.facebook.com/ilcpville](https://www.facebook.com/ilcpville)

## Message From Your Pastor

*"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12)*

This is part of the Gospel that is read on January 6<sup>th</sup> for the Festival of Epiphany. The manifestation of Jesus is celebrated in this story of traveling to find the new King. Growing up I always enjoyed finding the wise men and placing them out as our nativity collections were displayed. We are uncertain how many there actually were, but what is documented is the gifts given to Jesus. Besides the gold, the gifts of frankincense and myrrh were sweet smelling resins used for burning, anointing, and preparing a body for burial. Even at a young age, the shadow of the cross loomed over Jesus. May you experience the joy of discovering Jesus anew today and always.

God's peace and love,  
Pastor Matthew Groenke

Annual Meeting

  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
500 Immanuel Rd Pflugerville, TX 78660

Baked Potato Lunch

- Gather - Grow - Serve -

SUNDAY

28TH JANUARY

11:30 AM

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED

ILC needs four members to run for our 12-member church council. Running for church council is a great way to learn more about church's mission and operations, make the decisions that help ILC run smoothly, and get to know other church members.

Part of what makes our church council strong is getting a variety of perspectives from members. Long-time and new members are welcome! Questions? Contact Church Council President Melissa Malinowski ([lovely2sweetgirls@att.net](mailto:lovely2sweetgirls@att.net)) or any council member (<https://ilcpville.org/welcome-to-ilc/church-council/>) for additional information.



### Focal verse

*“To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:11-12).*

### Reflection

We found the cat in our garage one morning. She must have snuck in to get away from the cold, and in the early morning my son heard the scratching on our door. Once both children saw her, they were enamored. Our neighborhood is not unfamiliar with random cats but hadn’t seen this one before. She looked young. After chasing her around the house and cuddling with her, we left her outside. As we came and went throughout the day, she remained close to our house.

The next day she greeted us again, and we decided to take her to the veterinarian. Like many wild cats, she needed some attention and medicine, but we committed to seeing her to health and to making her part of our family.

I, especially, had no intention of adding another pet to our home. But sometimes unexpected gifts come knocking, and all we can do is accept them with open arms. As a family we’re learning to care for this newest addition—pills, creams and all.

The [Advent season](#) is packed with unexpected gifts, and we should open our homes and hearts to receive them. [Like Mary](#), we can trust in the goodness of God. Like Joseph, we can listen to our dreams and the angels among us. Like the magi, we can offer what we have. Like the angels, we can sing and share our joy. Like the shepherds, we can keep watch for the beauty before us.

This season, as we wait for the baby born in a manger, reflect on the unexpected gifts in your life: the morning quiet before everyone is awake; decorating cookies and delivering them to neighbors; sitting under the light of the Christmas tree; volunteering at a local soup kitchen or nursing home; reading the story of Jesus’ birth as a family and pondering this story in your heart.

However you honor this time, remember that Jesus was born for you and your family. He came into the world so all would know the saving grace of God’s love for all the world.

### Practices

- Take part in random acts of kindness. Leave a bigger tip at a restaurant or coffee shop. Leave encouraging notes around town. Drop cookies off with neighbors or teachers. Leave treats for postal workers.
- Read a chapter from the Gospel of Luke each day to immerse your family in Jesus’ life.

Read [‘Twas the Season of Advent: Devotions and Stories for the Christmas Season](#) (Zonderkidz, 2021), a great family Advent devotional to study together each day.

### Prayer practice

Drive around to see the Christmas lights and nativity displays in your town. Before or after, pray together: *Light of the World, thank you for shining your love on us. Help us be beacons of hope for the world. Comfort us. Guide us. And send us forth to tell others of the good news of Jesus’ birth.*

## Giving Opportunities

- ⇒ General Fund
- ⇒ Building Fund Cemetery
- ⇒ Operating Fund
- ⇒ Cemetery Endowment Fund
- ⇒ Technology Fund
- ⇒ Food Pantry Fund
- ⇒ Backpack Ministry
- ⇒ Prayer Garden

- ⇒ Benevolence/Angel Fund
- ⇒ Pipe Organ Fund
- ⇒ Sotaria Fund
- ⇒ Pre-Theological Fund
- ⇒ Youth Special Fund
- ⇒ Children's Restricted Fund
- ⇒ Collin Lovett Scholarship Fund
- ⇒ 150th Anniversary Fund

## Tired and Retired

Our December Christmas gathering had 23 present. What a great time enjoying the wonderful Cele Middle School student ensemble playing for us as we ate. Thank you so much. We had fun playing the bells (Christmas songs) led by Annyce Bohls and hearing songs from Vernagene Mott, Kathy McKee, Bob & Sharion Tanner, and Pastor Matthew.

We had delicious desserts and were each given a lovely crocheted candy cane made by Cyndi Motloch. Thank you Cyndi.

Please join us in the new year on Wednesday, January 10, 11:30 am for another brown bag lunch.



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will hold its first meeting of 2024 at 9:00 am on Saturday, Jan. 13th, in the Gather room. Come join the fun as we learn new ways to knit and crochet shawls, scarves, and other projects of service. Contact Bonnie Sassman at [bsassy55@aim.com](mailto:bsassy55@aim.com) or Elizabeth Arndt at [earndt0@gmail.com](mailto:earndt0@gmail.com) for more info.

## JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Justice Ministry will hold its first meeting of 2024 at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 29th, via Zoom using the link Justice Ministry Meeting via Zoom. Please join as we determine new ways to serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs. Contact Elizabeth Arndt at [earndt0@gmail.com](mailto:earndt0@gmail.com) for more information.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee will hold its first meeting of 2024 at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 9th, in the Gather room and via Zoom using the link Stewardship Committee Meeting via Zoom. Please join us as we determine new ways to grow our understanding of Christian stewardship and energize the use of time, talent, and treasure of this congregation! Contact Elizabeth Arndt at [earndt0@gmail.com](mailto:earndt0@gmail.com) for more information.



**BROWN BAG LUNCH AND LEARN**

**Brown Bag Lunch and Learn!** Starting on January 7, 2024 for six weeks we are offering a new opportunity to view history through the lens of our Christian faith. We will be exploring America’s response to one of the greatest humanitarian crises in history through Ken Burn’s documentary [The U.S. and the Holocaust](#). Each Sunday after the 10:30 service we will meet in the Gather room to watch and discuss the history and how it still resonates in the life of our nation and world today. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Arndt at [earndt0@gmail.com](mailto:earndt0@gmail.com) or 512-619-5572.

JOIN US FOR

# WORSHIP SERVICE

*Every Sunday*

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

**8 AM**

SANCTUARY


**9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL**

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

**10:30 AM**

PARISH HALL

LIVESTREAM ON YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/@immanuellutheranchurchofpf6820>



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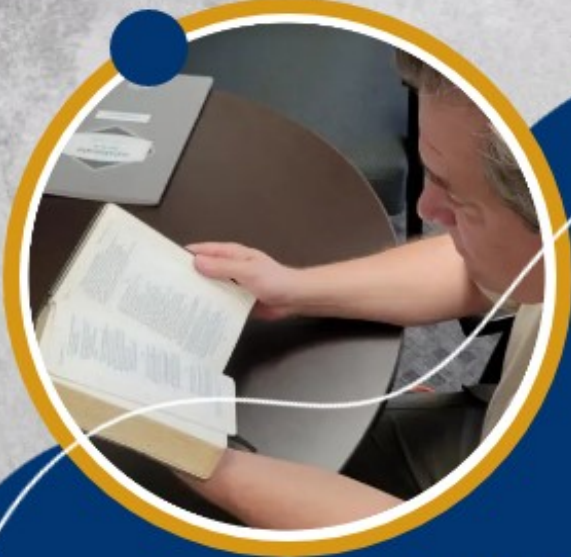
COME & LETS GROW TOGETHER

## PASTOR LED BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday in-person and via Zoom

**In Person 11am ILC Gather Room**

**Zoom 4:45pm**



Meeting ID: 862 1691 0984  
Passcode: 512723

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: Baby Care Kits

WELCA will begin its support of 2024 Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in January by collecting items needed for **Baby Care Kits**. The items requested will provide basic needs for mothers to keep their baby warm, clothed, and clean. To learn more about this effort, please take a few minutes to view information on Baby Care Kits online:

<https://lwr.org/kits/baby-care-kits/instructions>

We hope you will consider donating any of the kit pieces listed below for **sizes 6-24 months**. Items don't have to be brand new, as gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) from the Salvation Army, Goodwill or garage sales may be substituted.

- 1) Lightweight cotton t-shirts (*No onesies preferred; however, if you donate onesies, WELCA members can cut and hem into t-shirts*)
- 2) Long or short sleeved gowns/sleepers without feet preferred (*Top and pant sets or pajamas sets may be substituted for gowns/sleepers; sleepers with feet can be donated and WELCA members will cut off the feet and hem the legs*)
- 3) Receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with light-weight yarn, up to 52" square (***Fleece blankets are no longer accepted***). Suggestion: Keep an eye out for periodic sales on flannel at local retail stores.
- 4) Cloth diapers (*Walmart and Amazon have Gerber 10 pack cloth diapers for approximately \$14, or can also be sewn from flannel material or old t-shirts – For instructions visit <https://lwr.org/downloads/diaper-tip-sheet>*)
- 5) Hand towels, dark color recommended by LWR.
- 6) Jackets, sweaters, or sweatshirts with hoods if possible or include a baby cap.
- 7) Socks
- 8) Bath-size bars of **gentle soap**, in original wrapping
- 9) Diaper pins or large safety pins (with metal closure vs plastic preferred).

If you ever need a quick reminder later of the items requested, please take a slip from Baby Care posters throughout the church in early 2024. You may drop off all Donations in the WELCA Room.

**Thank you for SERVING OTHERS.**



**1st Tuesday of the Month**

**Mary Circle 10:00 am, Parlor**

**Rebecca Circle 10:00 am,  
Grow Room**

**Elizabeth Circle 2:00 pm,  
Gather Room**

**NEW TIMES FOR 2024!**





**“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.” - Matthew 2:10**


The Wisemen followed a star in search of Jesus. They had to have trials along their path. We know of one trial, their encounter with King Herod. I’m sure these Wisemen, who had great intelligence, realized how ruthless Herod was when they met him. And the dream that warned them not to go back to Herod and tell him the location of Jesus was further proof that Herod had ill intentions towards Jesus and anyone who crossed him.

We don’t know of any other trials noted in the story of the Wisemen, but I’m sure there were other small trials on their journey. We all have taken a trip at some point just like the Wisemen had a long journey to find Jesus. Did you forget your toothbrush, have a flat tire, or lose something valuable on your trip? We don’t know if the Wisemen forgot their toothbrush, but we know it did not let them stop their journey. They overcame any obstacle to obtain their goal of finding Jesus and were ‘overwhelmed with joy’ to find the star stopped over the place the child was!

We all have obstacles in our lives. The hard part is seeing the joy through the obstacles! Continue to pursue your goals and dreams. God’s light will continue to lead you. Remember to, “Let light shine out of darkness” (2 Corinthians 4:6). “For nothing is impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37).

Let your light shine as we *GATHER* in worship, *GROW* in God’s Word, and *SERVE* God by serving others. Happy New Year!

*Melissa Weiss Parry*, Director of Education



**THANK YOU** to all who participated and helped with the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 17, 2023.

We wish you a Happy New Year!


**Sunday School Classes resume on 1/7/24 at 9:15am.**

### Service Times / Sunday School

8:00am, Sanctuary Service	9:15am, Sunday School	10:30am, Parish Hall Service
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Sunday School locations for **9:15am**:

<u>PreK - 6th grade:</u>	Meet in the Basement under the Sanctuary
<u>7th and 8th grade:</u>	Confirmation Class in the Youth Room and classroom by gym / bistro
<u>High School:</u>	Meet in Youth Room by gym / bistro



**NO CHILDREN / YOUTH OR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

**12/31/23, New Year Holiday**

**Classes resume, 1/7/24, 9:15am - 10:15am**

Adult Classes: “**Pathfinders**” in person in the Parlor or via Zoom, discussing “The Wired Word” weekly, which is a Bible Study based on relevant, current, weekly news articles.

“**Searchers**” Class Conference Room, Exploring the Gospel, led by Dorothy Kraemer.

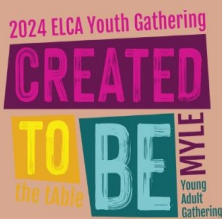
“**Growers**” meet in the Grow Room. Barbara Bohls is leading “Help Is Here” by Max Lucado. Finding fresh strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit.

# YOUTHERANS

## Annual Congregation Meeting

Youth Bake Potato Fundraiser Lunch!

Youth sign up for toppings to bring for the Bake Potato Bar!



All Donations go toward the National Youth Gathering This Summer!

January 28, 2024

### To Sign Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A9A82FA3FD0-46829590-youth#/>



Meet on MONDAY Nights in Youth Room from 6:30pm-8pm



# YOUNG ADULTS



Meet the 1st Sunday of the month, 9:15am. WELCA Room (by the Parlor).

Join in for fellowship and fun!

Contact Melissa or Elizabeth for questions.



JOIN US FOR AN



AFTERNOON OF GAMES!

*42, Train, Spades...*

ALL ARE WELCOME

FRIDAY JANUARY 26

1:30pm

GATHER ROOM

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
500 IMMANUEL RD.  
PFLUGERVILLE, TX

FOR MORE INFO CALL:  
512-431-1942

### We Lift These Names Up In Prayer

*Sandra Noton, Virginia Weiss, Wilbert & Billie Becker, Judy Tawater, Betty Wolf, Gail Hammett, LaVerne Scott, Betty Wicklund, Hal Kuempel, Gloria Allmon, Marie Davis, Nathzele Pfluger, Robert Boehm, Mary Hufstedler, Linda Lane, Catharine Klein, John Estes, Brenda Hagn, Karen Livingston, Jenell Jaster, Joy Pfluger, Michael Hansen*

### Volunteers for the Month

#### Worship Assistants

7th Jean Gifford  
14th Charla Dubes  
21st Devorah Jakubowsky  
28th Steve Barczy

#### Altar Guild

8:00am

Jan. 7 & 14:

Diane Moellenberg &  
Martha Sansom

Jan. 21 & 28:

Hansen Family

10:30am

Sherry Wukasch &  
Peggy Parker

#### Greeters

8:00am

Sanctuary: Martha Sansom

Chapel: Roselind Wieland &  
Dorothy Warren

10:30am

Parish Hall: Vicki Lovett &  
Sherry Wukasch

Chapel: Lonna Duncan



# January ILC Events

# 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b>	2 Elizabeth Circle 2pm, Gather Room Mary Circle 10:00 a. Parlor Rebecca Circle 10:00a. Gather Room Boy Scouts Leader Meeting 7pm, Conference Room	3	4 Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 7pm, Zoom	5	6
7 Traditional Service 8am, Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15 am Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall Parish Ed Committee Meeting 11:30 am, Conference Room Brown Bag Lunch & Learn 11:30a, Gather Room	8 Heritage Lakes Prayer Service 2pm Youtherans 6:30-8PM, Youth Room	9 Stewardship Comm. 5p, Gather Room ILDS Board Meeting 6 pm Long Range Planning Meeting 7pm Worship & Music Comm. 7pm, Gather Room	10 Tired & Retired Lunch 11:30 AM, Parish Hall.	11 Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 7pm, Zoom	12	13 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am, Gather Room
14 Traditional Service 8:00am, Sanct. Sunday School 9:15 am Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall Brown Bag Lunch & Learn 11:30a, Gather Room	15 <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b>	16 Church Council Meeting 7p	17 Men's Breakfast 6:30am Quilters 8:30am, WELCA Rm.	18 Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 7pm, Zoom	19 <b>IMAGE ARTICLES DUE</b> Boy Scouts 6:00pm, Parish Hall	20 Boy Scouts 6:00pm, Parish Hall
21 Traditional Service 8:00am, Sanct. Sunday School 9:15 am Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall Secret Prayer Sister Reveal Party 2pm, Gather Room Brown Bag Lunch & Learn 11:30a, Gather Room	22 Youtherans 6:30-8PM, Youth Room	23	24	25 Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 7pm, Zoom	26 Afternoon of Games 1:30 pm, Gather Room	27
28 Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:30p, Sanctuary & 7:00p, Sanctuary <b>Annual Congregational Meeting &amp; Potato Lunch</b> 11:30a, Parish Hall	29 Justice Ministry 8pm, Zoom Youtherans 6:30-8PM, Youth Room	30	31 Boy Scouts 6p, Conference Room			

# Happy Birthday

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1st</b> – Ronnie King,<br>Dominic Weber, Jim Mendl,<br>& Yosia Rasas                   | <b>17th</b> – CJ King & Everly Cardwell   |
| <b>2nd</b> – Lucas Muehlbrad &<br>Kristen Urrate  | <b>18th</b> – Taylor Gibich & Jean Pfluger  |
| <b>4th</b> – Timothy Kunze,<br>Peggy Franklin, & Shane Randig                             | <b>19th</b> – Audrey Owen, Lucinda Hudson,<br>& Stephanie Newberg                             |
| <b>5th</b> – Bryan Weiss &<br>Brayden Frazier-Cottrell,<br>& Colton Baker                 | <b>20th</b> – Camille Bybel, Vera Gebert,<br>& Karolyn Graf                                   |
| <b>6th</b> – Ryan Jansky,<br>Landrey Hebbe, &<br>Jennifer Scott                           | <b>21st</b> – Kathryn Weiss, Wendy Weiss,<br>& Kylie Randig                                   |
| <b>7th</b> – Kenneth Adix &<br>Julie Hodges   | <b>22nd</b> – Bonnie Epperson   |
| <b>8th</b> – Mildred Huebel &<br>Nathan Knobloch  | <b>23rd</b> – Bob Lovett & Brenda Mettlach  |
| <b>9th</b> – Laura McGarity,<br>Sarah Koester, & Logan Porter                             | <b>24th</b> – Ransom Harris   |
| <b>10th</b> – Diana Barkley   | <b>25th</b> – Carolyn Sladek, Amanda Raney<br>Foster Bohls, James Kuempel,<br>& Scot DeSantis |
| <b>12th</b> – Rita Hodde, Eric Palmer,<br>JoAnn Hodgson, Makenna Johns,<br>& Sandra Noton | <b>26th</b> – Noble Talley  |
| <b>13th</b> – Carlton Lorfing &<br>Eli Pierce   | <b>27th</b> – Katie Chilton &<br>Clifford Damstrom  |
| <b>14th</b> – Carolina King &<br>Pamela Hebbe   | <b>28th</b> – Carrie Tiemann,<br>Adara Torres, & Patrick Eschberger                           |
| <b>15th</b> – Kara Mendoza,<br>Hellen Barczy, & Brenda Bubert                             | <b>29th</b> – Marilyn Kleen, Darice Bailey<br>Virginia Weiss, & Lisa Ellisor                  |
| <b>16th</b> – Jan Klattenhoff   | <b>30th</b> – Albertine Hendrickson,<br>Becky Hebbe, Dorothy Williams, &<br>Elijah Groenke    |
|   | <b>31st</b> – Payton Montandon, Lana Forgy<br>Tony Harnsberry, & Janelle Hebbe                |

ILC wants to wish a happy  
birthday to all January Birthdays!!!!