

500 Immanuel Road Pflugerville, Texas 78660 March 2024 Newsletter Immanuel Lutheran Church

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| Co | nne | ct | with | us! |

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office (512) 251-4494
www.ilcpville.org
https://www.youtube.com/c/
ImmanuelLutheranChurchofPflugervilleTexas
www.facebook.com/ilcpville

Message From Your Pastor

The most important week in the church calendar year is fast approaching. This year Holy Week will be celebrated form March 24th to March 31st. Starting on Palm Sunday, we will celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with a wonderful meal and egg hunt for our children and culminate the week with the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Every year we take the time to intentionally reflect in our worship these transformative events for the world in the life of Jesus, from washing feet and eating in the upper room, to praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, to betrayal by Judas leading to an arrest and crucifixion on Good Friday. Don't forget the opportunity to participate in the Walk to Calvary event from noon to 1 pm on Good Friday as we hear God's Word and sing Lenten hymns while carrying the cross. The morning of Easter will begin with our sunrise service, Easter breakfast, and worship services in the parish hall and sanctuary to round out the day. We rejoice with the young people who partake of their first communion on Maundy Thursday, as this sacrament is a means of grace that offers forgiveness of sins and a tangible sign of God's abiding presence and love.

"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100)

God's love and peace,
Pastor Matthew Groenke

JOIN IMMANUEL'S SERVANT TEAM!

Volunteers are needed to help with LuMin's Tailgate Tuesday.

Join Pastor Matthew on March 5th.

Be the reason a young adult is able to enjoy a hot meal and find a deeper connection to God.

To sign up please call the church office there are 3 shifts: Prep, Serving, & Cleanup. We will be there from 3-7:30 PM.



Kōichi Shikishima doesn't recognize his hometown. When he left his Tokyo neighborhood to fight in World War II, promises of victory and glory filled him. He returned to ruins and angry neighbors.



"How is this possible?" neighbor Sumiko (Sakura Ando) asks Kōichi (Ryunosuke Kamiki) as she stumbles out of what's left of her house to face the young man wearing a uniform of the Japanese military. "Weren't you a kamikaze pilot?"

When Kōichi doesn't answer, Sumiko comes to her own conclusion: Kōichi has failed. He refused to fight to the death against the Allies, which Sumiko treats as de facto collusion in the destruction they wrought throughout Tokyo. "You have the nerve to show your face?" she demands, before describing the decimation of her village, including the lives of her children.

From the look on Kōichi's face, viewers sense that he asks himself another question, even more serious and terrifying: "How do I live?"

That scene comes from *Godzilla Minus One*, the Japanese monster movie that became a surprise hit in the United States. The movie owes its success in part to the excellent filmmaking of writer-director Takashi Yamazaki. Moreover, it also captured the imaginations of moviegoers by homing in on one of the key questions of our day: How do I live?

Kōichi's question recurs throughout many of the best movies of 2023. In fact *How Do I Live?* is the original title of the latest masterpiece from legendary animation director Hayao Miyazaki, called *The Boy and the Heron* internationally. It's the question that Gloria (America Ferrara) asks in director Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* when her adult life is filled with sadness, cellulite and other things not promised by the beloved toy line. It's the question that scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy) asks when visions of charred bodies interrupt a triumphant speech in director Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*.

The question "How do I live?" recurs throughout many of the best movies of 2023.

These movies pose the question of living with stakes great and small. Sometimes it's a personal loss that drives characters forward, serving as motivation for the ornate action scenes in director Chad Stahelski's *John Wick: Chapter 4*, for the addictive visits to the afterlife in co-directors Danny and Michael Philippou's horror film *Talk to Me* or for the tender love affair between neighbors Adam (Andrew Scott) and Harry (Paul Mescal) in director Andrew Haigh's *All of Us Strangers*.

Even more pressing in the year's best films is the question of life in response to systemic injustice. Some movies respond with humor, as when author "Monk" Ellison (Jeffery Wright) constructs a false identity in director Cord Jefferson's satire *American Fiction*. Others respond with spectacle, exemplified by heroes Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) and Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld) in the animated superhero movie *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, co-directed by Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers and Justin K. Thompson. Director Daniel Goldhaber's *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* illustrates living in resistance in its depiction of a group of misfits who gather to stop an oil company.

Scripture offers some direct answers to the question of how to live. Romans 12:1 declares, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship."

Many 2023 movies offer a glimpse of what a <u>living sacrifice</u> looks like, none more surprising than director Martin Scorsese's historical epic <u>Killers of the Flower Moon</u>. The film makes no excuses for the white supremacy that drives William King Hale (Robert De Niro) and other white people in early-20th-century Oklahoma to kill members of the Indigenous Osage Nation in pursuit of their land and wealth. Nor does it deify central victim Mollie Burkhart (Lily Gladstone), portraying both her hurt and her resilience. Instead, Scorsese and his collaborators confess their complicity in the systems that allowed the crime to happen, building to a surprising metatextual ending.

With that approach, *Killers of the Flower Moon* answers the question posed by several other 2023 movies. We live by seeking justice, repenting from sins and caring for others. Or, as we Christians put it, we live as living sacrifices, continuing Christ's work against even horrendous evils.

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



There were twenty-six at the February Valentine/Ash Wednesday get together. After taking our picture, which will be placed in the 150th anniversary time capsule, everyone enjoyed a brown bag lunch with chocolate heart candies for dessert.

February birthdays, over 60, were recognized. The birthday prize went to Gloria Kuempel and the two others went to Verline Bohls and Rose Reed. Sherry and Janelle offered both Valentine and Ash Wednesday trivia.

Please join us on Wednesday, March 13, 11:30 am, for another brown bag lunch.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will hold its next meeting at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 9th, 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 or Elizabeth Arndt at earndt0@gmail.com for more information.

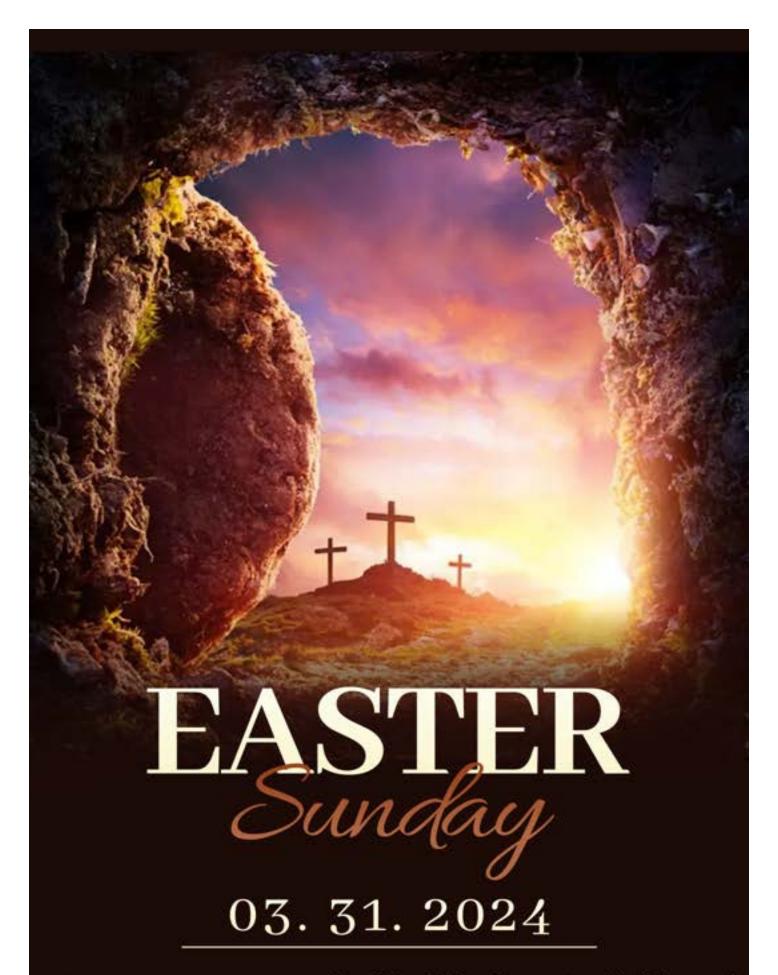
JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Justice Ministry will hold its next meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 25th, 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 for more information.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee will hold its next meeting at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 9th, 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 for more information.





Sunrise Service 7:15 AM, Front of Church
Fellowship Breakfast 8 AM, Parish Hall
Contemporary Service 9:30 AM, Parish Hall
Traditional Service 11 AM, Sanctuary

IMMANUEL LUTREBAR PTENDERVELLE

500 Immanuel Rd Pflugerville, TX 512.251.4494



BRING YOUR EASTER BASKET & A DOZEN PREFILLED EGGS FOR THE HUNT!

MARCH 24TH

EVENTS BEGIN FOLLOWING THE 10:30 AM SERVICE IN THE PARISH HALL

PULLED PORK
SANDWICHES &
HOT DOGS

BAKE SALE

EASTER BUNNY PHOTOS

PUPPET SHOW

PETTING ZOO

500 IMMANUEL LUTHERAN RD PFLUGERVILLE, TX

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: Baby Care Kits

WELCA continues in March to collect BABY CARE ITEMS, sizes 6-24 months

Any of the requested clothing items listed below can be new OR gently used (no stains or tears) from local resale charity sellers or garage sales.

- 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.



<u>1st Tuesday of the Month</u> Mary Circle 10:00 am, Parlor

Rebecca Circle 10:00 am, Grow Room

Elizabeth Circle 2:00 pm, Gather Room

NEW TIMES FOR 2024!



"I hearby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Courage is a quality I've always admired! How do you teach courage to anyone else? The best way I know is to lead by example. Which is exactly what Jesus did for us! I'm sure he was terrified at his trial, knowing he was going to be persecuted and humiliated. But, he never let his emotions show. He faced his death sentence with courage and grace knowing that he would be in His Father's Kingdom of Heaven soon.

This month, I hope you find more courage in yourself to become a stronger version of YOU! God gave each of you wonderful abilities! Have courage to expand your abilities. Donate your time to a new cause, be charitable with your donations, and spread more kindness. Our complicated world needs people with more courage. Be brave and see what stretching your boundaries does for own happiness. I look forward to GATHERING with you as we GROW in God's word, and SERVE God by serving others!

Melissa Weiss Parry, Director of Education



No Sunday School Classes Sunday, March 10, 2024

All classes will have a week off! Enjoy your Spring Break!
All classes resume March 17, 2024

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, March 24, 2024, Palm Sunday



Candy and Egg donations will be accepted in bins outside Parish Hall and Office or to Melissa Parry, melissap@ilcpville.org

We have a petting zoo that will be here the afternoon of the Easter Egg Hunt!

Who doesn't love animals? What a great and fun experience for the children to learn and see different animals and learn about all the creatures God created! If you are able to help with a financial donation to this event, please contact Melissa Parry, David Hufstedler, or the church office!





Children's Hand Bell Choir on Easter

Children aged 2 - 5th grade will play the hand bells on Easter Sunday at the 9:30am service in the Parish Hall, March 31, 2024.

To participate, please attend Sunday School at 9:15am on Sunday mornings in February and March to learn the song and how to play the handbells!

Service Times / Sunday School

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

Sunday School locations for **9:15am**:

<u>PreK - 5th grade</u>: Meet in the Basement under the Sanctuary

6th - 8th grade: Confirmation Class in the Youth Room and classroom by gym / bistro

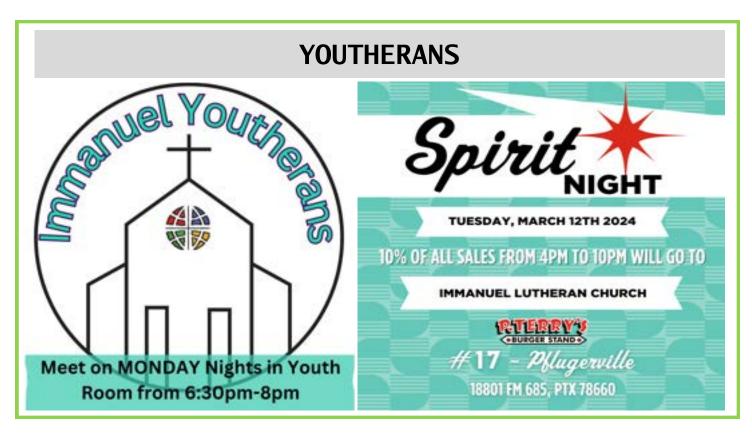
<u>High School</u>: Meet in Youth Room by gym / bistro

Adult Classes: "Pathfinders" in person in the Parlor, 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. Lenten Devotional led by Barbara Bohls.





Friends of the Pflugerville Community Library

Website: https://friendsofthepflugervillelibrary.org/

Email: friends@friendsofthepflugervillelibrary.org

Amplify: Will be March 6-7, 2024 (a method of giving)

150TH IS COMING

Did you know:

The longest serving ILC pastor was Tom Kesselring followed Pastor E.G. Knaack (14 years).

Official date of ILC May 31,1874 when the proposed constitution was approved and signed by 11 men; 4 selected as the church council. The official date of City of Pflugerville 1965.

Worship attire was hats/dresses for women-suits and hat for men.

1874-Nov 2023 statistics: 2,465 baptized, 2,312 confirmed, 1080 marriages, 1049 funerals

Enhancing the church property, the stone cemetery fence was built in 1944 at a cost of more than \$1,000.

The Luther League (Youth organization) was organized when Pastor Stricker served. ILC hosted the Synodical Convention several times. A Luther League Hall was constructed with auditorium/theater seating, a stage for plays, kitchen for serving large meals, a balcony with more seating. Youth attended National Luther League Conventions held at major universities (Spokane, WA), Purdue, Cornell (Itaca, NY), Texas A&M &





COME & LETS GROW TOGETHER

PASTOR LED BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday in-person and via Zoom

In Person 11am ILC Gather Room

Zoom 4:45pm



JOIN US FOR

WORSHIP SERVICE

Every Sunday

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

8 AM

SANCTUARY

9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 AM
PARISH HALL

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

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, Brian Kleen, Robin Rankin, Derek James, Merle Weiss, Daniel Terrell, Elizabeth Miller, Parker McCollough, The Family of Randa Nowotny, Richard Arndt, Jake Dillon Bally, The family of Frances Raesz, The Family of Vera Lee Hamann

Volunteers for the Month

Worship Assistants

3rd Steve Barczi
10th Bob Lovett
17th Jean Gifford
24th Charla Dubes
31st Devorah Jakubowsky

Altar Guild 8:00am

March:

The Hansen Family **Holy Week:**

Betty Reinhardt

10:30am

Sherry Wukasch & Peggy Parker

Greeters 8:00am

Sanctuary:

NEEDED

Chapel:

Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing

10:30am

Parish Hall: Marta Gregory Chapel: NEEDED

March ILC EVENTS

2024

| 24 Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt Traditional Service 8:00am, Sanct. Sunday School 9:15 am Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall 31 Easter Sunday Touth Room 26 Youth Room Youth Room | Traditional Service 8:00am, Sanct. Sunday School 9:15 am Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall Food Pantry Distribution 12– 2pm Parish Ed Committee Meeting 11:30 am, Conference Room | 10 Traditional Service 8:00am, Sanct. Sunday School 9:15 am Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall Brown Bag Lunch & Learn 11:30a, Gather Room Youth Superbowl Camp Bake Sale 11:30a, Parish Hall 12 Stewardship Comm. 5p,Zoom Kervice 2pm LDS Board Meeting 6 pm Youth Room Youth Room 7pm, Gather Room 7pm, Gather Room | 3 Lutheran Foundation of Southwest Traditional Service 8am, Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15 am Workshop for LFSW 9:15a, Gather Room Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall 1st Communion Class 11:30a, Gather Room Room 7pm, Conference Room 7pm, Conference Room 7pm, Conference Room 7pm, Conference Room | MON |
|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 27 | 20 Men's Breakfast 6:30am Quilters 8:30am, WELCA Rm. Lent Service 10a, Chapel Soup & Sandwich Dinner 5pm, Parish Hall Lent Service 6:30p, Sanctuary | mm. 5p,Zoom Lent Service 10a, Chapel seting 6 pm li:30 AM, Parish Hall. Soup & Sandwich Dinner 5pm, Parish Hall Lent Service 6:30p, Sanctuary | 2pm, Gather Lent Service 10a, Chapel Soup & Sandwich Dinner 5pm, al Meeting n 10:00a, Grow Boy Scouts Parents Meeting 6:30p, Conference Room Lent Service 6:30p, Sanctuary | WED |
| 28 Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday Service 10a, Chapel Maundy Thursday Service 10a, Chapel | Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 4:45pm, Zoom Boy Scouts 6:00pm, Parish Hall | Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 4:45pm, Zoom | 7 Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 4:45pm, Zoom | Į |
| 29 Good Friday Good Friday Service 10a, Chapel Walk to Calvary 12-1 Good Friday Service 6:30p, Sanctuary | 22 | IMAGE ARTICLES DUE | ~ | TRI 1 150th Ticket Sales Start |
| 30 | 23 Boy Scouts Blue & Glod Crossover 6pm, Parish Hall | 16 | 9 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am, Gather Room | SAT |

Happy Birthday

3rd - Randy Hodges

4th - Alaina Teller

5th - Reed Reiland

6th - Marilyn Lorfing & Christi Bittick

7th - Brenda Hagn & Marc Jones

9th - Conor Gripp & Wendy Ward

11th - Diane Anderson

12th - Drew Hebbe

13th - John Estes, Zachary Porter, & Hope Hendrickson

14th - Patti Kluth

15th - Jacquekyn Muehlbrad & Randy Gebert

16th - Steve Barczi

17th - Dwayne McGarity & TJ Odegaard

18th - Gail Hammett

19th - Rece Loerwald

20th - Mason Bruggeman

21st - Lloyd Hebbe

22nd - Kelly Knobloch & Mary Jo Fuchs

23rd - Ernie Casbeer & David Gifford

24th - Mallory Lovett, Kyle Herrity, & Ray Kraemer

25th - Brandon Weiss, Michelle Casias, Deborah Reeder, & Rhonda Bohls

26th - Quinn Cardwell & Melanie Samuelson

27th - Stacy Mueller & Emily Visness

30th - Rebecca Dittnar & Sharon Avant

31st - Mark Sassman & Brian Kruse

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