



**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

500 Immanuel Road
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

**May 2024 Newsletter
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Connect 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 month of May for Immanuel will include something that I have never yet experienced in my life. On May 26th, Immanuel Lutheran Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary as a congregation. This is a first for me in my pastoral ministry career, to be part of a faith community that contains such a rich history full of stories of people throughout the years coming together. I hope that you have had a chance to watch the interviews of some of our members of ILC as they describe what being part of ILC has meant to them. The connections that the people of ILC have to God and to each other shine through all these conversations. The Holy Spirit is alive and well through the people of ILC, and we can be certain that God will lead and guide us for years to come. One of my favorite prayers comes from our Morning Prayer service. This has been true for ILC in the past, the present, and into the future. ***“O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”***

God's love and peace,
Pastor Matthew Groenke



Living Lutheran

“This is where you can meet God”

Meditative worship service offers comfort, peace to attendees

By Erin Strybis | April 5, 2024



For years Sunday worship had felt more routine than restorative for Ellen Flanders, a lifelong member of [Christ United Church](#) in DeWitt, Mich. Then Alex Aivars, pastor of the ELCA-Episcopal congregation, introduced a meditative worship series for Lent 2023.

The new service invigorated Flanders, a retiree and caretaker to her elderly mother.

“I’m a stressed person every day,” she said. “Going to meditation [at church] has been an awesome thing for me. It just takes me to another place. I feel really close to God and Jesus.”

Aivars is glad that the service has a soothing effect. “It seems like everyone is very stressed and very busy,” he said, “and this service is a way to slow down and have some space to be calm.”

The pastor himself began meditating seven years ago while at seminary. His inspiration for [meditative worship](#), however, came from scrolling through Facebook and seeing advertisements and friends’ posts on the benefits of meditation and mindfulness. He wondered if he could introduce this practice to members of Christ United.

The meditative worship service has become so popular it’s now a permanent fixture on the church calendar, offered the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

How it works

Held in the sanctuary of Christ United, with chairs placed in a circle and pillows laid on the floor, the service includes time for silent and spoken reflection. Candles are lit. Coloring books and crayons are available for those who wish to use them to meditate. An urn with sand and candles sits in the center of the room, used for offering prayers at the end of the service.

Aivars begins meditative worship with an opening prayer, then leads a guided meditation. He invites participants to imagine their bodies as trees, their legs poking through the floorboards like roots and their arms reaching toward the sun to gather nutrients. “This is where you can meet God,” he tells churchgoers.

As Aivars speaks, participants have ample time to breathe and be still. This is the heart of meditation, which he defines as “being quiet [in] a quiet space and focusing on a word or few words, going inward ... then listening for God’s voice.”

Afterward participants will listen to music and hear Aivars read the Gospel lesson for the evening. As he reads, he asks participants to picture themselves in the story, imagining how it felt to have Jesus wash their feet or how the wine tasted at the wedding in Cana.

“I’m not hearing more people wanting more church. There’s a hunger for spirituality and getting in touch with your soul.”

The Gospel reading is followed by two minutes of sacred silence, then participants are encouraged to share thoughts and reactions to the story. “We will share how we were feeling, what we saw, what we experienced,” Flanders said. “That helps me feel even closer to the other [attendees] there—my church family.”

The silence, Aivars added, lets participants form their own thoughts on the Gospel text and connect with each other.

The format has piqued the interest of young and old alike, including people who have never been drawn to Christ United’s other offerings. In fact, Aivars said, three people who had never been to Christ United began attending the meditative worship service this past fall, then brought three others with them.

In the months ahead, Aivars said, he’d love to try a Sunday worship service incorporating meditation. He believes that meditative worship is the future of the church.

“I’m not hearing more people wanting more church,” Aivars said. “There’s a hunger for spirituality and getting in touch with your soul. [Meditative worship] seems to [feed people spiritually](#).”

For her part Flanders appreciates that the service is one she can share with her young adult daughters and her husband. She highly recommends meditative worship to others.

“The weeks I go, I’m more aware of keeping Jesus in my life,” Flanders said. “I feel more present; I have more gratitude. I appreciate nature and beauty around me. ... I remember that, oh yes, I’m loved, I’m special, I’m important to Jesus.”

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

Tired and Retired got together with 24 present to see historical displays of ILC in preparation for the 150th anniversary. Everyone enjoyed seeing photos and other remembrances of the past. There was also a display of past ILC pastors. The display is now in the Gather room for you to enjoy.

Vernagene also showed a slide show of ILC history and led a lively discussion on that. Our church has such a deep and wonderful history, hope to see you on May 26 for the celebration. There will be a group picture taken in front of the church that day so be there by 9:30 a.m.

The Explorer Class from the Day School energized all by singing "BIBLE", "Jesus Loves Me" and "The Texas Song". Our thanks to you.

Door prizes were won by Pat Roughton, Lois Luedtke, and Cyndi Motlock.

Please join us again on Wednesday, May 8, at 11:30 am, for another brown bag lunch. Fiesta is the theme so wear as you wish.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will hold its next meeting at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 11th, in the Gather room. Come and get involved in that new crochet or knitting hobby to keep you busy in the air conditioning during those hot summer months.

All people, skill levels and projects are welcome! 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, May 20th, 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, May 14th, 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.

150th Anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church

1874 - 2024

EDUCATION MINISTRY May 2024

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice!” Philippians 4:4

On Sunday, May 12, 2024, we will focus our Sunday School lesson on the history of ILC and the 150th Celebration! I would like to invite anyone who is interested to join us in the Sanctuary at 9:15am for a small history lesson by Mrs. Vernagene Mott on history of the Sanctuary and how church services were in the past here at ILC! Mrs. Mott will briefly play the pump organ and the pipe organ for all Sunday School children, youth, and adults! We welcome all who are interested to join us in the Sanctuary that morning! We all know how important it is to learn about our history and keep stories and traditions relevant to today’s congregation!

I look forward as we continue to *GATHER* together, *GROW* in God’s word together, and *SERVE* God by serving others!

Melissa Weiss Parry, Director of Education

Confirmation

Affirmation of Baptism is Sunday, May 19, 2024, 10:30am, Sanctuary.

Congratulations 2024 Confirmands!

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Quinn Cardwell | Ryann Mendoza | Beth Mueller |
| Mia Parry | Brooklyn Randig | Natalie Rae Seeman |
| | | Hutton Weirich |



Children’s Hand Bell Choir on the 150th Anniversary Celebration



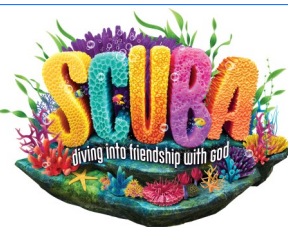
Children aged 2 - 5th grade will play the hand bells on the Anniversary Sunday at the lunch reception in the Parish Hall, May 26, 2024, with free kids meals!

To participate, please attend Sunday School at 9:15am on Sunday mornings in May to learn the song and how to play the handbells! If there are not enough children in attendance, the performance will be canceled.

High School / College Graduating Seniors

Send your graduation photo and information to Melissa Parry,
melissap@ilcpville.org

Plans are being made to let our congregation celebrate you on June 2, 2024!



VBS - Vacation Bible School - *Diving into a friendship with God!*

Monday, June 17, 2024 - Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00pm, Ages 3-12.

Please let me know how you can volunteer to help spread God’s word and have fun with children of ILC and our community!

Service Times / Sunday School

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

Last day of Sunday School is May 19, 2024, for this semester.

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

PreK - 5th grade: Meet in the Basement under the Sanctuary

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

High School: 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. Barbara Bohls is leading “Help Is Here” by Max Lucado. Finding fresh strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Immanuel Lutheran Church
500 Immanuel Rd
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Collin Lovett SCHOLARSHIP 2024



ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Collin Lovett Scholarship Fund was established in 2014 in memory of Collin Paul Lovett, HHS class of 2012.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIAS

- Hendrickson High School (HHS) ✓
- or ILC Member Senior ✓
- 500-word essay ✓

MORE + ESSAY
INFO + SUBMISSION
<https://collinlovettsscholarship.weebly.com/>

THE 500 WORD ESSAY

- ★ Describe yourself, hobbies, work experiences, clubs and extracurricular activities.
- ★ Describe in detail any volunteer or community associations you belong to, including PALS.
- ★ Tell us why you want to go to school for a secondary education, what your major would be, and how this scholarship might help.

ESSAY DEADLINE
MAY 14, 2024

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IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

ILC GOLF TOURNAMENT

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE COLLIN LOVETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITTING GRADUATING SENIORS GOING TO COLLEGE.

2:00 PM
SHOTGUN START

JUNE 1

SHADOWGLEN GOLF CLUB
12801 LEXINGTON ST.
MANOR, TX



WEBSITE/REGISTRATION:
WWW.ILCGOLF.WEBLY.COM
OR CALL BOB LOVETT 512-825-1769



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits will be the focus of Immanuel's WELCA group during the months of May & June. These Kits contain the most basic items which improve the hygiene and standard of living for people around the world.

Please consider purchasing any of the following items and dropping them off in the WELCA Room or the plastic bin found in the Gather Room.

- Light-weight bath towels (between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52") - dark color
- Bath-size bars of soap (any brand), **in their original wrapping**
- Adult-size toothbrushes, **in original wrapping***
** Toothbrush multi-packs can be donated (the packages will be disassembled, and each toothbrush will be sealed in a business-size envelope).*
- Sturdy combs (**no hair picks or rat tail combs**)
- Metal nail clippers (with or without file)

Thank you for your continued support and donations that continue to allow ILC to fulfill its mission of Serving God by Serving Others.



WELCA

WELCA/ YOUTH BAKE SALE Palm Sunday, MARCH 24, 2024



WELCA RETREAT TO Down Home Ranch April 3, 2024

Barbara Bohls, Marian Farmer, Lonna Duncan, Diane Anderson, Pr. Faye Schott, Sharion Tanner, Sherry Wukasch Grace Lin, Janelle Hebbe



Devotions and refreshments in the gazebo



Lunch at Meyers Smoke House, Elgin

HAPPY 150TH ANNIVERSARY ILC

ALL ILC groups/members are encouraged to “read/practice” the German Lord’s Prayer in preparation for the 150th Anniversary worship service.

Hope you can participate in the May 26th celebration

Vater unser im Himmel, geheiligt werde dein Name. Dein Reich komme. Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel so auf Erden. Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute. Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern. Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung, sonder erlöse uns von dem Bösen. Amen.

150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

9:30 AM

WELCOME!

*Mayor Victor Gonzales
State Rep. James Talirico*

Time Capsule Burial

ILC Group Picture

10:30 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

*Overflow worship seating is available in the
Chapel, Gather Room, and Parish Hall*

11:30 AM

LUNCHEON IN PARISH HALL

*Children Meals located at Food Pantry.
Along with Kona Ice.*

12:30 PM

150TH PROGRAM

Music, Children’s Bells, & Cake



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MAY 26, 2024

JOIN US FOR AN



AFTERNOON OF GAMES!

42, Train, Spades...

ALL ARE WELCOME

FRIDAY May 17th
1:30pm
GATHER ROOM

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 IMMANUEL RD.
PFLUGERVILLE, TX

FOR MORE INFO CALL:
512-431-1942

When there is a need for prayer please call Merle Weiss at 512-417-0054. If Merle is not available you will now call Donna Winkley at 817-688-7122.

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, Nathzele Pfluger, Robert Boehm, Mary Hufstedler, John Estes, Aaron Eschberger, Elizabeth Miller, Melanie Hudson, Diana Barkley, Joanne Johnson Hurley, Susan Moore, The Family of Evangeline Neese, The Family of Derek James, The Family of Pat Weiss, The Family of Terry Moore, The Family of Lowell Bloemker, Scott Ging, The Family of Janelle Hebbe, Elijah Perez, Jerry Sassman

Volunteers for the Month

Worship Assistants

5th Devorah Jakubowsky
12th Steve Barczy
19th Bob Lovett
26th Charla Dubes

Altar Guild

8:00am

5.5/5.12 - Bonnie Sassman
5.19/5.26 - Sharion Tanner
& Dorothy Kraemer

10:30am

Sherry Wukasch &
Peggy Parker

Greeters

8:00am

Sanctuary:

Martha Sansom

Chapel:

Carlton & Marilyn Lorfing

10:30am

Parish Hall:

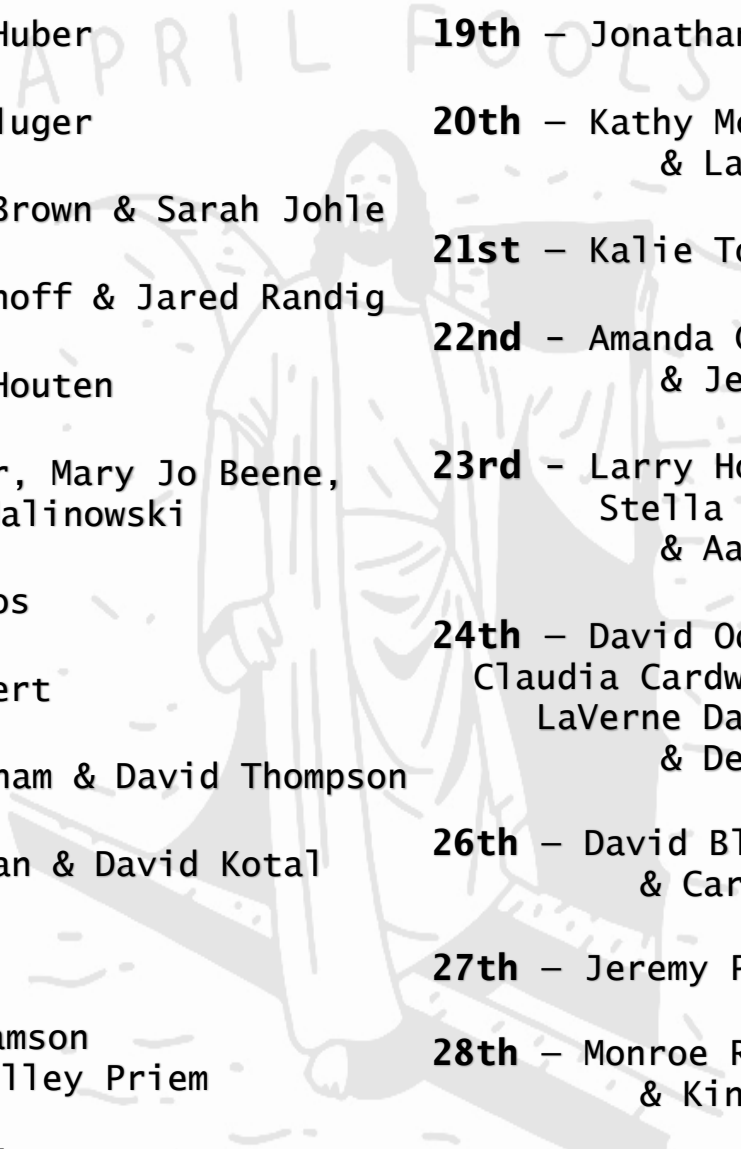
Jerry Eschberger
Bonnie Sassman

May ILG EVENTS

2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p><i>5 Last Day to Get 150th Luncheon Tickets @ \$15 per plate</i></p> <p>Traditional Service 8am, Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15 am Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall Parish Ed Committee Meeting 11:30 AM, Conference Room</p> | <p>6 150th Anniversary Committee Meeting 6p, Gather Room Youthersans 6:30-8PM, Youth Room</p> | <p>7 Elizabeth Circle 2pm, Gather Room Mary Circle 10:00 a, Parlor Rebecca Circle 10:00a, Grow Room Boy Scouts Leader Meeting 7p, Conference Room</p> | <p>1 Boy Scouts-Parent Planning Meeting 6:30 PM, Conference Room</p> | <p>2 Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 4:45pm, Zoom</p> | <p>3 ILDS Muffins with Mom</p> | <p>4 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am, Gather Room</p> |
| <p>12 Mother's Day Traditional Service 8:00am, Sanct. Sunday School 9:15 am, 150th Teaching Lesson Contemporary Service 10:30am, Parish Hall</p> | <p>13 Heritage Lakes Prayer Service 2pm 150th Anniversary Committee Meeting 6p, Gather Room Youthersans 6:30-8PM, Youth Room</p> | <p>14 Stewardship Comm. 5p, Zoom Worship & Music Comm. 7pm, Gather Room</p> | <p>8 Tired & Retired Lunch 11:30 AM, Parish Hall. ILDS Board Meeting 6 pm</p> | <p>9 Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 4:45pm, Zoom</p> | <p>10 ILDS Prek Grad Afternoon of Games 1:30p, Gather Room</p> | <p>11 Boy Scouts Rank Advancement 6p, Parish Hall</p> |
| <p>19 Confirmation @ Late Service Traditional Service 8:00am, Sanct. Last Day of Sunday School 9:15 am Contemporary Service 10:30am, Sanct. Food Pantry Distribution 12-2pm, 150th Anniversary Work/Clean Up Day 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM</p> | <p>20 Justice Ministry 8pm, Zoom</p> | <p>21 Church Council Meeting 7p</p> | <p>15 Men's Breakfast 6:30am Quilters 8:30am, WELCA Rm.</p> | <p>23 Pastoral Bible Study 11am, Gather Room Pastoral Bible Study 4:45pm, Zoom</p> | <p>24 IMAGE ARTICLES DUE</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>26 ILC 150TH CELEBRATION Welcome Ceremony 9:30am, Outside Sanct. Worship Service 10:30am, Sanct. Luncheon Following Worship Service, Parish Hall 150th Program & Activities</p> | <p>27 OFFICES CLOSED</p>  | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> | |

Happy Birthday

- 
- 1st** – Elizabeth Huber
2nd – Camille Pfluger
4th – Christine Brown & Sarah Johle
5th – Emily Saathoff & Jared Randig
6th – Dylan Van Houten
7th – Jack Palmer, Mary Jo Beene,
& Sarah Malinowski
8th – Lauren Ramos
9th – Brian Markert
11th – Kelly Gorham & David Thompson
12th – Kayla Lujan & David Kotal
13th – Joe Weiss
16th – Joe Williamson
& Shelley Priem
17th – Kaiden Kline
& Sharon Erickson
18th – Mia Parry
19th – Jonathan Mendl & Ruth Pfennig
20th – Kathy McKee, Stella Bishop,
& Laura Bloemker
21st – Kalie Tovar & Karen Thompson
22nd – Amanda Gripp, Robert Bridges,
& Jenell Jaster
23rd – Larry Hodde, Carol Fletcher,
Stella Rachui, Cole Puryear,
& Aaron Swenson
24th – David Odegaard, Tyler Tanaka,
Claudia Cardwell, Rebecca Koester,
LaVerne Dancak, Mary Hemenes,
& Dean Sladek
26th – David Bloemker
& Carolyn Norwood
27th – Jeremy Pierce & Bartley Emken
28th – Monroe Reinhardt
& Kinley Hoffman
30th – Wally Erickson
31st – Anna Koester & Cynthia Mendl

ILC wants to wish a happy

birthday to all May Birthdays!!!!