



**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



History of the Congregation



**GATHER
GROW
SERVE**

Mission Statement

To thank, praise, honor and serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we gather and worship, grow in the Word, and serve God by serving people.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
500 Immanuel Road
Pflugerville, Texas 78691**

Updated in 2024

**Historical Sketch
Of
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pflugerville, Texas**

- 1852 Pastor J.M. Kugel, a circuit rider, conducts worship services in the community.
- 1860s Pastor J.B. Lieb, member of Texas Synod, serves once a year
- 1869 Pastor F. Ernst serves 40 souls nears Windscott Creek on the Henry Lisso farm in a small frame building used as a church.
- 1871 The first Immanuel Lutheran Congregation forms; Constitution is adopted on April 10;(remove)
Congregational listing: 27 heads of households
- 1872 Due to disagreements, the congregation disbands; About one-half of this group later starts the Evangelical Church at Dessau; Remainder form Immanuel Congregation and the Church at Richland.
- 1874 In April, Texas Synod sends Pastor F. Jesse, and on May 31, a Constitution is proposed and adopted by 11 members.
- 1875 Pastor William Pfennig installed;
First church building is dedicated on June 20; it is erected on 5 acres of land donated by William Bohls on July 10, 1875;
Immanuel joins the Texas Synod;
Congregation has a Parochial School taught by the pastor;
The village of Pflugerville was then located at the present intersection of Immanuel Road (Dessau Road) and Pflugerville East Road.
- 1879 Pastor M. Oehler installed
- 1881 Pastor Oehler dies October 24 and is buried in the church cemetery
- 1882 Pastor Theo Uhdau installed
- 1884 Pastor H. Daude installed

- 1887 Pastor H. Lettermann installed;
Texas Synod meets here;
Ladies Aid organized February 12 for the purpose of caring for the cemetery;
A parochial school is established;
New pews added;
The past decade had been a difficult one for the congregation.
- 1889 William Pfluger purchases 4 acres from William Bohls and donated it for church purposes on January 29, 1898.
- 1894 Ladies Aid dissolved
- 1897 Pastor A. Hartmann installed;
Two additional rooms were added to the parsonage.
- 1898 Pastor William Pfennig is supply pastor
- 1899 Pastor William Flachmeier installed
- 1900s First choir organized with 40 members
- 1904 The village of Pflugerville moves to be near the new railroad.
- 1908 Pastor G. Stricker installed
- 1909 It is resolved to build a new church;
Pastor Stricker begins to also serve Dessau Lutheran Church as do all of Immanuel's Pastors who succeed him until the 1980's.
- 1910 Red brick church dedicated January 23- Cost: \$10,300
- 1911 First telephone installed
- 1912 Sewing Circle organized
- 1913 Luther League organized Sept. 14 with 34 members;
Texas Synodical Convention here for second time, April 9-14.
- 1914 Pastor G. Stricker dies and is buried in church cemetery.
Pastor H. Schliesser installed. New parsonage built costing \$3,000.00.

- 1915 Tabea Verein (Ladies Aid) organized February 18.
Dissolved in 1960 into the A.L.C.W.
- 1916 Luther League Auditorium built (the first Lutheran Parish hall in Texas);
Host to Texas District Luther League Convention;
Two acres of land bought from Emil H. Bohls for
enlargement of cemetery;
First resident Pastor, Shliesser) to have an automobile
- 1917 A change is made in the dues class system for financial giving
from 2 to 3 classes: \$6, \$12, and \$18 a year.
- 1919 Host to Texas District Luther League Convention
- 1920 16 Sunday School teachers organize and join the Texas Sunday School
Teachers Association.
- 1920 Finance classes raised to \$10, \$20, and \$30 per year.
- 1924 Pastor M.J. Schwarz installed;
Congregation hosts State Sunday School Teachers Convention;
Due to change in pastors, the 50th Anniversary is celebrated on
November 2.
- 1928 Red brick church is destroyed by fire March 16;
Services are held in Luther League Auditorium.
- 1929 A \$43,000 brick church with pipe organ is dedicated on March 3;
more than 1000 people attend dedication.
- 1930 Affiliated with American Lutheran Church
- 1934 Pastor E. B. Knaak installed
- 1935 Host to Texas District of American Lutheran Church
- 1936 Women's Missionary Society organized May 27
- 1940s During this decade the transition from German to the English language
is made;
The American Lutheran Hymnal is first used;
The women of the congregation become voting members.

- 1941 Brotherhood organizes February 10
- 1943 The old school building is sold at an auction for \$90.
- 1944 70th Anniversary observed;
Cemetery stone fence is erected.
- 1946 Change from Common Chalice to individual
Communion cups
- 1947 Driveway paved
- 1948 629 foot well dug and equipped with electric pump;
Finance classes raised to \$12.50, \$25, and \$37.50 per year.
- 1949 Pastor W. A. Mueller installed and leaves a few months later.
Back of church basement excavated for kitchen facilities;
75th anniversary celebrated May 29 with three worship services;
Pastor Kurt Hartmann installed;
Church bulletins introduced
- 1950 Water piped to cemetery
- 1951 The Duplex envelope system replaces the class system of giving;
Junior Mission Band organizes in September (later changed to
"Junior Lutherans")
- 1952 Installation of church's kerosene heating system
- 1954 Constitution revised and congregation incorporates;
80th Anniversary Celebration on May 23 and May 30.
- 1957 Memorial contributions for Education/Building Fund begun;
Water storage tank installed;
"Service Book and Hymnal" introduced;
Pastor Wilson Hill installed;
"Church Chat" newsletter started;
Pairs and Spares organized
- 1958 Retired debt of present church
Public address system installed
- 1959 85th Anniversary Thankoffering for renovating the church was \$3,699.

- 1960 Texas District becomes the Southern District of The American Lutheran Church;
Tabea Verein (Ladies Aid) and the Women's Missionary Society dissolve to become part of the new ALCW (American Lutheran Church Women).
- 1961 Constitution revised and adopted
- 1962 The Pflugerville High School team receives recognition for having won 55 consecutive games.
- 1963 \$100,000 building program started;
Groundbreaking services for parsonage and education building on November 24;
Pastor Wilson Hill leaves to go to San Antonio.
- 1964 Pastor Donald Luckemeyer installed;
"Immanuel Image" becomes new name for the monthly church newsletter.
90th Anniversary observed November 29 with dedication services for the new parsonage and education building.
- 1970 Installation of air-conditioning in the church;
Education-Parsonage building notes burned Jan. 18;
Close- circuit T.V. installed in Education Bldg.
- 1971 Tennis court erected
- 1973 Pastor Luckemeyer leaves to go to Karnes City;
Pastor A.H. Muehlbrad, retired and member of the congregation, is supply pastor;
\$12,216 is spent for renovation of church and education building;
Constitution changed to permit earlier communion of youth;
Pastor D. Lee Muehlbrad installed August 26;
Butane gas system converted to natural gas;
Preparation for centennial celebration includes renovation and painting of the Church Sanctuary, Basement and Educational Building.

- 1974 Many anniversary gifts are given including: the Chapel with altar, carpeting and chairs; individual chalice communion set; new office equipment; carpeting; pew cushions; tables; chairs; chain link fence; flag pole, Sanctuary lamp and many other items.
 Reorganized and established new congregational standing committees;
 Cemetery Endowment fund now large enough so that expenses no longer need to be subsidized by congregation;
 Water System connects with Manville Water District;
 Congregation Centennial Pictorial Directory published;
 Congregation receives estate of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Schoen
 Centennial Celebration on May 26: morning/afternoon services and dedication of historical marker;
 Pastor takes youth to Confirmation Camp on annual basis.
- 1975 Elder program begun, whereby Elders assist the pastors in worship service;
 Disposition of Schoen real estate;
 Congregation participates in United Mission Appeal;
 Congregation's largest Confirmation Class confirmed – 37
 Vernagene Mott appointed Head Organist Nov 2, 1975
- 1976 Supplement to 1974 Pictorial Directory made;
 Congregation celebrates National Bicentennial year on July 24 with "Old Timer" Worship Service;
 New brick maintenance building completed;
 Worship and Music Committee formed;
 J.C. and Company Youth Choir officially begun;
 Education Building and Parsonage roofs replaced;
 Pastor Wilson Hill hired as Visitation Pastor
- 1977 Congregation now entitled to send two lay delegates to the District convention;
 Receive deed of home of Regina Arend;
 Begin having two morning Worship Services on Communion Sunday.
- 1978 Purchased and began using the "Lutheran Book of Worship".
 Worship Ushering System established (sole responsibility of council in the past);
 Assist in establishing mission congregation in Round Rock;
 Restore the original reed organ (1872?);

- Major repair on pipe organ;
Build new & repair old streets on church property;
- 1978 Congregation participates in the Challenge of the Generations
(cont.) Financial Campaign;
Sacristy remodeled with new cabinets and running water;
Pre-Theological fund established
- 1979 Donation of two lots of land at lake Travis by Mrs. Elsie Doerpinghaus;
Architectural Committee formed;
"Think Tank" Committee formed to explore needs of additional pastoral help and recommends a 2nd pastor;
Brotherhood District Convention held here.
- 1980 Pastor Stephen M. Schur called as second pastor;
Pastor D. Lee Muehlbrad issued new Call as Senior Pastor;
Master Plan Steering Committee replaces Architectural Committee;
Vietnamese refugee Phen Tran family sponsored;
Pastor D. Lee Muehlbrad honored at 25th Anniversary of Ordination;
Pastor Schur installed August 17;
Pictorial Directory published;
Bell Choir formed after gift of bells;
Pastor Hill retires from being Visitation Pastor
- 1981 Decide to build multi-purpose building and renovate Education Building after \$100,000 is raised;
Stone cross on church tower destroyed by storm;
Carillon System installed;
40th Anniversary of Brotherhood celebrated;
Begin two services every Sunday
- 1982 Land site for new building done by volunteer work;
Immanuel's "Noah's Ark" float wins first place in several parades;
60th Anniversary Ordination of Pastor A.H. Muehlbrad
- 1983 Volunteer workers complete new building;
Multi-purpose building dedicated October 23 – Parish Hall
Close circuit television in Chapel is in color;
Congregation computer purchased;
Two members in seminary
- 1984 Pastor Wilson Hill honored at 50th Anniversary of Ordination;
Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bohls give 3 acres adjoining the north and south side of church property;
3 lay delegates go to Southern District Convention;

Long Range Committee studies Day Care Center;
Pastor Casey Zesch installed

- 1985 First Christmas Luminary;
American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in America and
American Evangelical Church merges to
Become Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
ALCW becomes WELCA (Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America);
Day School Program started
- 1987 Pastor D. Lee Muehlbard leaves.
- 1988 Pastor Ray Kraemer installed
January 1, ELCA merger took place.
- 1989 Tired and Retired Group started
- 1990 Restoration of Sanctuary and Basement;
Men's Breakfast group started;
Constitution revised
- 1991 Elevator installed;
SEARCH began;
Ordination of Pastor Lucinda Rueter Zesch
- 1993 Pastor Don Just serves as Interim Pastor;
Pastor Wilson Hill dies and is buried in church cemetery
- 1994 Pastor Zesch leaves.
Pastor Scott Postlewait installed;
New Nursery completed
- 1995 Children's Choir started
- 1997 Pastor Scott Postlewait leaves Immanuel on February 28th;
Pastor Tom Kesselring ordained and installed on August 31st
- 1998 Restoration/Upgrade of pipe organ at cost of \$97,000;
Organ dedication;
Repaving of parking lot;
125th Anniversary celebration begins with Veteran's Day observance;
- 1999 125th Anniversary of Immanuel celebrated on May 30th

- 2000 Pastor Ray Kraemer says “good-bye”;
Pastor Warren Rinehart called as interim pastor;
New building committee begins work on plans for gymnasium,
classrooms and renovations to existing education building;
May 20 – Storm broke stained glass window in Chancel area of sanctuary;
Stained glass window repair and restoration project begins
- 2001 Pastor Keith Born installed as Senior Pastor
Kara Clark hired as Youth Director;
Construction of gymnasium, classrooms and renovations is approved
- 2002 Constitution revised;
Gymnasium and classroom completed;
Day school moves into new building;
New sound system installed in sanctuary;
Ordination of Sidney Bohls;
Ordination of Matthew Kuempel
- 2003 Dedication of gymnasium and classrooms;
Renovations began on existing Educational Building;
Started renting out gymnasium as a community outreach;
Food Pantry started;
Enhanced worship schedule started with contemporary middle
service and free-standing Sunday School hour;
Contemporary Praise Band “Sotaria” was formed;
First polka worship service in conjunction with Oktoberfest celebration;
Started using “tellers” to count Sunday’s offering
- 2004 Celebrated 130th Anniversary;
“Save our Sanctuary” project to repair roof and seal brick on Sanctuary
was started;
Completed Stain Glass window project with protective glass;
Cedar branches with white lights replaced the milk jugs used to
line the driveway for the Christmas Luminary.
- 2005 Pastor D. Lee Muehlbrad died;
Gretchen Rye named Day School Director;
Day School celebrated 20th Anniversary;
Initiated communion at every service every Sunday;
Construction of Garden of Prayer started;
20th Anniversary of the Christmas Luminary
Youth Ministry Internship Program begins

- 2006 Kristi Piskorz named Director of Educational Ministries;
 Reese Weirich named as Asst. Day School Director;
 Upgrading of the Church Sign started;
 Completed the reconstruction of the playground into the Church Park;
 Katie Boos named Youth Ministry Intern;
 Garden of Prayer completed
- 2007 Food Pantry renamed Yellow Brick House & moved to parsonage;
 New carillon installed in the Bell Tower;
 Completed erecting a new illuminated Church Sign;
 Day School Director, Gretchen Rye and Asst. Director, Reese Weirich, leave;
 Outdoor ramp, used for bringing caskets in/out of church for funerals, on south side of Church completed;
 New "Renewing Worship" hymnals were purchased & will replace "The Lutheran Book of Worship".
 New piano purchased for Sanctuary Choir Loft.
 Pastor Kesselring 10th year of service anniversary.
- 2008 Remodeling of the front steps and front doors to the Church started;
 Kathy Smith named Director of Day School Ministry;
 Kara Clark begins AIM program at Luther Seminary.
 WELCA started the Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Adult Leadership Policy passed and initiated.
- 2009 Celebrated 135th Anniversary;
 Completed the remodeling of front steps & doors; and outside basketball court to include lights and new basketball standards
 WELCA began the Secret Prayer Sister Ministry in January.
 Pastor Born's 15th anniversary of ordination.
- 2010 Kathy Smith leaves and Cindy Oates named as Director of Day School Ministry;
 Asphalt drives to the church were rebuilt and sealed along with a flat curbing provided to protect the asphalt from erosion;
 In January, the Tie Blanket Ministry began giving a fleeced tie blanket to each baby/child under confirmation age at their baptism.
 Parish Hall classroom renovation includes flooring, carpet and paint;
 Parish Hall restroom renovation project started.

- 2011 Kara Clark, Minister of Youth & Family Ministry, leaves;
Katie Boos named Director of Youth Ministry;
Commercial refrigerator & freezer purchased for the Yellow Brick House.
- 2012 Pastor Keith Born resigns from Immanuel on January 2nd;
Kristi Piskorz resigns as Director of Education Ministry on Aug. 31st;
Pastor Tom Kesselring's 15th Anniversary of ordination on Aug. 31st;
Pastor Tom Kesselring called as Senior Pastor;
Paved existing roads in the cemetery and built sidewalks from the north gate southward to the new roads.
- 2013 Susan Cox named as Director of Education Ministry in April;
Aaron Farrow hired as Youth Ministry Intern;
Tougher Than Nails included in VBS for 5th-8th graders;
Rosalina Rivera installed as Associate Pastor on August 4th;
Puppet Ministry started – gospel lessons given through mouths of puppets during worship services.
Merry, Martha & Me – 1st Annual Women's Holiday Event – November;
New church website developed by Faith Highways along with new church logo developed by David Singer incorporated in the new website.
Mission Statement "Gather, Grow and Serve".
Luminary cancelled due to severe weather for the 1st time in 26 years.
- 2014 Celebrated 140th Anniversary in May;
Cindy Oates resigned as Director of Day School Ministry;
Susan Varghese hired as new Director of Day School Ministry;
Aaron Farrow, Youth Ministry Intern leaves;
Trunk or Treat incorporated with Day School Spooktacular, October;
70' TV replaced projector & screen; Blu-Ray player replaced DVD player in the Chapel;
Katie Wegner, Director of Youth & Family Ministry, started Luther Seminary in the Fall 2014;
Backpack Ministry was started. Donations from members supplied food over the weekend to Ruth Barron Elementary School kids.
Beverly Wolff honored for 25 years of service.
- 2015 Renee Rouse was hired as Day School Director and Claudia Cardwell was hired as Business Director of the Day School;
Day School celebrated their 30th Anniversary on August 16th;
"Walk to Calvary" – 1st Community Event held on Good Friday
Historical Committee was formed;
Extended driveway behind the sanctuary and connected existing

sidewalks to the driveway and to the Parish Hall sidewalk.

- 2016 Renee Rouse resigned in August as Day School Director and Claudia Cardwell was hired as Director of Day School Ministry in September; Kelly Borgfeld was hired as Youth Ministry Intern; Joe Williamson retired in December as the church & cemetery grounds keeper after 20 years of service; Interior and exterior restoration work was completed in the church Sanctuary; Ryan McKee was hired as the new church & cemetery grounds keeper.
- 2017 Pastor Rosy Rivera accepted a call to First Lutheran Church in Loraine, Ohio. A farewell luncheon was given in her honor on May 7th; Pastor Tom's 20th Anniversary of Ordination on August 31st; 500th Anniversary of the Reformation was celebrated all year long with festival services held on Reformation Sunday; Upgraded and repaved the circular driveway at the Chapel entrance; Congregation voted to sell the 6th Street Parsonage on August 27th; Parsonage sold in November; Paid off the original New Building Loan from 2002.
- 2018 Renovation of the Lower Narthex was completed. Melissa Sjolander was hired as the Office and Facilities Administrator on July 1st. Katie Wegner, Director of Youth & Family Ministry, leaves Immanuel on August 12th to serve her year of internship at Hutto Lutheran Church. Cassi Montandon was hired Sept. 23rd as Interim Youth Coordinator. Melissa Parry was hired as Director of Education Ministry, Oct. 16th. Susan Cox resigned as Director of Education Ministry, Oct. 31st. Beverly Wolff resigned as Financial Secretary, Nov. 6th.
- 2019 Candy Kyle was hired May 1st as Administrative Assistant. Sherri Hoefling retired June 28th as Office Secretary after 15 years. Pastor Tom Kesselring retired on June 30th after serving 22 years as Pastor. Renee Kesselring resigned on June 30th as ILC Choir Director. Candice Combs installed Sept. 8, 2019 as transition pastor. Came to ILC from Shepherd of the Hills, Austin where she served as Pastor of Family Life Ministry. Call committee elected and organized for Pastor search.
- 2020 "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" ILC production, Feb. 15 & 16, 2020. In response to Covid 19 virus pandemic, ILC closed its doors in March 2020, to comply with state/county orders.

Worship services were conducted on-line through Zoom, so members could log in to watch from home.

Installation of Visitation ministry and communion ministers to the Homebound, March 8, 2020.

Church Council and all standing committees conducted monthly meetings by Zoom.

Sherry Markert was hired as our Church Business Administrator. Replaced Church Windows with new financial and church records Information system called Realm.

Telephone ministry established to make contact with seniors during the time of the pandemic.

First on-line communion on April 9, 2020.

Graduation recognition drive-through May 24, 2020.

Ralph & Marylee Kirkley retired from their many years as leaders of the ILC Food Pantry

On-line Confirmation service May 31, 2020.

Zoom Circle, Bible study, and WELCA board meetings, June 2020.

WELCA continued to serve people in our community and throughout the world.

On-line Sunday School material located on ILC website for use during Covid 19, for children and adult Sunday School classes.

Zoom VBS, July 2020.

ILC received a \$266,000 Paycheck Protection Program loan from the Federal Government. The loan was later forgiven and changed to a grant. It allowed the church and day school to keep our staff intact during the worst days of the COVID shutdown.

Hired Frieda Mottonen as part-time youth director in August 2020

A fund drive was initiated for the purchase of Technology Upgrades which would support live streaming of worship services.

Pastor Candice Combs resigned Sept. 15, 2020.

Since we had not completed the call process, supply pastors were Scheduled to lead services on Zoom each week.

Worship leaders spent many hours recording music and preparing slides for Zoom Worship Services.

Claudia Cardwell resigned as day school director, and she was replaced by Krissy O'Brien.

In November, our worship spaces were fully decorated for Christmas!

Several worship services in December were fully prerecorded in our worship spaces, with the use of our upgraded Technology Equipment.

On-line worshipers were grateful to see our worship spaces!

In December, ILC hosted a modified drive through luminary with only the scene at the Manger, and a group gathered for Christmas caroling (mindful of social distancing).

- 2021 Lent services were broadcast by Zoom each week. Plans were made to administer drive through communion on Ash Wednesday, but plans had to be cancelled due to the “Snowpocalypse”, which left the whole area without power for several days.
- Online services were held on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- On Easter Sunday, ILC held a beautiful drive-up sunrise service from the front steps of the Sanctuary. 3 crosses were erected near the cemetery. Members brought flowers to decorate the flower cross on the church steps. Drive through communion was administered, then the traditional Easter Service was broadcast online by Zoom.
- Pastor Matthew Groenke arrived during the last week of April, and delivered his first message to us on Sunday, May 2nd! He came to ILC from Twinsburg, Ohio.
- Pastor joined several members in caroling to shut-ins in May 2021.
- After more than one year of worshiping online using Zoom, Pastor Matthew led our first in-person service in the Parish Hall on June 6, 2021, with 116 present. There was social distancing, face masks, pre-packaged Communion elements, and no sharing of peace, but there was great joy in meeting together!
- On July 25, 2021, Pastor Matthew Groenke was officially installed as the New Pastor of ILC, with Bishop Sue Briner officiating. Reception held in Parish Hall.
- Rally Day, Sept. 2021, we returned to two worship services and Sunday School. Still social distancing by roping off every other pew.
- For the 1st time in the history of ILC, the annual church picnic was moved from June to September, and we enjoyed the cooler fall temperatures.
- We returned to our tradition with the drive through luminary on Saturday, Dec. 11.
- Candlelight Christmas Eve Services returned at the traditional times of 4:30 and 7:00 PM. Both were well attended.
- 2022 After 2 years of not being able to hold Lent services in person, Pastor Matthew led Holden Evening Prayer services each week at 10:00 AM in the Chapel and 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary.
- He taught a 1st Communion class, and participants received 1st Communion during the Maundy Thursday service.
- The traditional soup and sandwich meals prior to services were not offered due to the high number of Covid cases in the community.
- Two services were held on Easter Sunday at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.
- The summer schedule included 8:00 AM Traditional and a 9:30 AM Contemporary Services.
- On Rally Day, Sept. 11, we returned to two worship services and Sunday School, with 8:00 AM Traditional, 9:15 AM Sunday School, and 10:30 AM

Contemporary.

The annual church picnic was held on Sept. 25, in Pfluger Park.

In September, Covid cases were trending lower. We returned to our practice of offering individual cups of wine for communion at the 8:00 AM service in the Sanctuary.

We continued to use prepackaged elements for the late service until Nov. 6, All Saints Day. On this day, Pastor Matthew offered an intinction option for the late service. This was very well received with only a limited number choosing the prepackaged option. No common cup was offered.

Drive through luminary was held on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Sunday School Christmas program was Sunday, Dec. 18.

A "Blue Christmas" service was offered for those who have lost loved ones on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services were held at 4:30 and 7:00 PM, with Communion offered at both services by intinction.

The Christmas Day Service was held at 10:00 AM.

2023

2023 Elizabeth Miller hired as Youth Director

2024 May 26, 2024 150th Celebration