

MAY 2023

| A – ANNEX PH – PARISH HALL P – PARSONAGE | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | 7:00 Festival Committee Mtg | | 6:00 Peacemakers Fellowship Fun Night | | 6:30 Sisters in Christ Banquet | Confirmation Retreat ?? |
| 7 CHURCH PICNIC 8:00 – 9:00 Set up begins at LV City Park 10:00 Worship / HC | | | 6:00 Adult Meal / Bible Sturdy 6:00 Peacemakers Fellowship Fun Night | | | 8:30 Men's Breakfast - P |
| 14 Mother's Day 8:00 Worship / HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Bible Study Confirmation / Sunday School 10:30 Worship / HC | | 16 Sewing Circle 9:00 – 12:00 | 17 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study 6:00 Peacemakers Fellowship Fun Night | 18 7:00 Lay Ministers Meeting | 19 | 20 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM NALC 's SW Texas Mission District Meeting at ILC |
| 21 Confirmation 8:00 Worship / HC 9:15 Confirmation Brunch 10:30 Worship / HC | | 23 6:00 Council Mtg. | 24 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study | 25 | 26 Congratulations!  | 27 |
| 28 Pentecost 8:00 Worship / HC 9:15 Coffee Fellowship Bible Study Confirmation / Sunday School 10:30 Worship / HC | 29 | 30 | 31 6:00 Adult Meal & Bible Study | | | |

Immanuel Lutheran Church

April-May 2023



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- Women of Faith Celebrate what Matters
- Fill the Crib's Women Project
- Information from our Treasurer
- Jana Clarke's devotional reflection

The Relevance of Incarnation for the Christian Faith

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" Philippians 2:6-8 (NIV)

There is no religion other than Christianity; not Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Taoism, Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, or the Bahá'í Faith that established such a close relationship between the divine and the human. This relationship is the element that Christianity emphasizes as its central idea, message and exclusive identity that can be ultimately expressed as the God who became human to make possible a one-on-one relationship with us because of his great love.

Behind Philippians 2:6-8 there are, at least, two dominant ideas that concern us today. The first one is the Greek expression, (*ἀλλὰ ἑαυτὸν ἐκένωσεν*) *ekenōsen heauton*, which NIV translates as *"made himself nothing,"* but rather a better translation is *"but he emptied himself."* The verb form *kenōō* from the word kenosis is used in other texts in the New Testament (Romans 4:14, 1 Corinthians 1:17, 9:15, 2 Corinthians 9:3); in today's reading, it does have significant implications for our faith. For example, it helps us to have a glimpse of the God we serve, who has been all-powerful and decided to leave everything because of the love he has for us. And this love is free for us, even though we do not deserve it. Therefore, God empties himself because of you and me. The fact that God became human is called the Incarnation; he became flesh. Again, no other religion today has this kind of divine action / relationship.

The second point is the expression of God being obedient. Has God been obedient to whom? To his mission, to the task to give himself so you and I can be saved just by grace! Obedient to love! In fact, the proper translation is (*ὑπήκοος μέχρι θανάτου*) *"obedient 'unto' death."* This phrase may have the purpose of serving as an example to follow. After all, being obedient unto death for the Christian mission of salvation for others is the mission that Jesus left for everyone who called themselves Christians (Matthew 28: 19-20). May the Lord help us to fulfill his love and mission, unto death!

God Bless You All,
Pastor Eric M. Miletti

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 7

Ushers
Reader
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Facebook Live
Tellers

Church Picnic, 10:00 AM

Men
Mark Buccigrossi
Abigail Clarke, Kaden Morrison
Darla Buccigrossi, Lucy Schott
Suzan Ferguson
Jacy Reeves, Chrystal Coble on Monday

May 14

Ushers
Readers
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Multimedia
Facebook Live
Coffee Hosts
Tellers

8:00 AM

Joyce Miller, Kathy Volkmann
Doug Piehl
Bryson Coleman, Joshua Stanush
Paige Haass, Joyce Miller
Ronnie Haug

10:30 AM

Laura Baumann, Patrice Goodman
Heather Bales
Jackson Faglie, Chris Homeyer
Charles & Candy Stork
Karen Campbell
Lillie Faglie

May 21

Ushers
Readers
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Multimedia
Facebook Live
Coffee Hosts
Tellers

Men of Immanuel
Ronnie Coleman, Shirley Stanush

Mark Buccigrossi, Ronnie Coleman
Dianell Recker
Kimber Hild, Kase Morrison
Chrystal Coble, Amy Wagner
Brent Recker

Confirmation Day

Gloria Henkes, Gloria Kipp
Gloria Kipp
Lillie Faglie, Maddie Schwake
Gloria Henkes, Brenda Willeford
Adriana Willeford
Shirley Stanush

Women of Faith – Confirmation Brunch
Rebecca Reeves, Darla Buccigrossi

May 28

Ushers
Readers
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Multimedia
Facebook Live
Coffee Hosts
Tellers

Pentecost Sunday

Chrystal Coble, Amy Wagner
Chrystal Coble
Kimber Hild, Matthew Stanush
Paige Haass, Joyce Miller
David Haass

Sunday School
Mark Buccigrossi, Brenda Willeford

David & Gayle Teel
Troy Stork
Henry Scull, Zaythan Tamez
Laura Baumann, Patrice Goodman
Bill Roser
Abigail Clarke

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Bryson Coleman
Austin Montoya
- 4 Scott Rolf
- 6 Juan Baez
Nathan Pianfetti
Zaythan Tamez
- 7 Lauren Prater
Marlin Tanneberger
- 8 Patricia Koepp
- 9 Monica Coldewey
Bill Roser
- 11 Larry Schulze
- 12 Darlene Reeves
- 13 Christian Bell
- 15 Debie Cone
- 16 Emma Scull
- 19 Matt Koepp
- 20 Dwight Koepp
- 21 Phil Corbin
Charlotte Markgraf
Brenda Willeford
- 22 Colton Davis
Henry Karnei
- 23 Shelley Witte
- 24 Emily Collins
Tatum Lahodny
- 25 Wesley Walker
- 29 Brent Recker
- 31 Braden Recker

SPECIAL DATES IN MAY

- May 5** Sisters in Christ Banquet
- May 7** Church Picnic at LV City Park
- May 20** SWTMD Meeting at ILC
- May 21** Confirmation Day

YARD WORK SCHEDULE

- May 1 - 6** Mark Buccigrossi, Ronnie Haug
- May 15 - 20** Pat Meyer
- May 30 - 6/3** Billy Bunton, Kenneth Mills

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th David & Wanda Kramer
- 14th Kevin & Shirley Stanush
- 15th Bill & Wendie Roser
- 20th Jeff & Tina Homeyer
- 22nd Travis & Whitney Hild
- 27th Eric & Tiffany Fryer

FLOWERS FOR MAY

- May 7** Altar at Picnic Joyce Miller
- May 14** Altar *Flowers Needed*
Piano
- May 21** Altar Confirmation Parents
Piano
- May 28** Altar Darryl & Rebe Penshorn
Piano

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 7** Church Picnic
- May 21** Confirmation Day
- June 5-9** Mission Trip to Puerto Rico
- July 16-20** Vacation Bible School, 5:30-8:30
- Aug 6** Annual Community Festival
- Sept 10** Polka Spirit Band & Agape Gathering
- Nov 22** Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Dec 2** Christmas Market
- Dec 9** Senior Saints' Luncheon
Cantata
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Education: Bible

What is the difference between the Roman Catholic Bible and the Protestant Bible?

While the Roman Catholic Bible is the same regarding the New Testament (27 books), the Old Testament is different. For Protestants, the Old Testament contains 39 books while the Roman Catholic's Old Testament version contains 46.

For Protestants, the Old Testament has the same number of books as the Masoretic Text - which is the authoritative version in Hebrew. In other words, our Old Testament is a match of the Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible.

In 1546 at the Council of Trent the Roman Catholic Church decided to keep in their Old Testament seven books: Maccabees 1 and 2, Baruch, Letter of Jeremiah, Tobit, Judith, The Wisdom of Solomon, and the Sirach - Ecclesiasticus and make some minor additions: Books of Esther and Daniel in contrast to the Masoretic text. This version with the additions already mentioned was in circulation in Greek since the III century before Christ. These additional books are called the Apocrypha and are not in the Hebrew authoritarian Bible.

The Old Testament used by Protestants (The Hebrew Bible) is composed by three major sections - The Torah (The Law), The Nevi'im (Prophets) and the Ketuvim (The Writings). In the meantime, the Roman Catholic Old Testament version (Septuagint) has four parts: Law, History, Poetry, and the Prophets.

Yet even the Septuagint was rejected by the Jewish authorities from the beginning, the Roman Catholic Church continues using it, in part because they have made the difference between doctrine (Masoretic Text) vs. piety (the Apocrypha).

Regarding this, the Bible is clear, "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it." Deuteronomy 12:32

BIBLICAL, DOCTRINAL AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAYS 9:15 AM

WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM

Cemetery Warning – When visiting the Immanuel Cemetery, please watch for snakes! There have been several rattle snake sightings.



Jana Clarke's Devotional Reflection

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case — the things that have to do with salvation. Hebrews 6:9 (NIV)

On April 16, nineteen Women of Faith gathered in the Parish Hall for a Fiesta potluck. There was lots of delicious food! Chrystal helped us understand more about Fiesta in the Bible, in San Antonio and in our lives.

Our service project for this quarter will be collecting baby items for the South Texas Pregnancy Crisis Center in Seguin. A pack and play is set up in the Parish Hall for you to donate any items that may be needed by a new mom.

Our next gathering will be the Sisters in Christ Banquet on Friday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The men will be cooking and serving us, and we will remember twelve of our departed sisters. Get your RSVP into the office ASAP!

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Darla Buccigrossi

Women of Faith, President



FILL THE CRIB

The Women of Faith will be conducting a service project during the second quarter of this year. You are asked to donate baby items that will be given to the South Texas Pregnancy Crisis Center in Seguin. We will be collecting items from **May through June**. All items can be placed in this crib, with the goal of trying to fill it to overflowing! Examples of items are gender neutral onesies, bibs, socks, hats, diapers, pacifiers, small stuffed animals and toys, receiving blankets, teething rings, baby wash, shampoo, and so on. If you have any questions, please contact



Darla Buccigrossi @ 830-688-1810.

For the past few years, our church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, has been going through a "Capital Campaign" to generate sources of revenue for our growth and prosperity. It is a high bar to reach and has shaken up the cozy culture we have embraced over the years. We want to be more effective and influential in God's kingdom in our community. We want to reach out to more people and families in our neighborhood. We want to update our facilities and offer our members, worshipers, and visitors an attractive building and welcoming experience. These are the better things that the writer of Hebrews expresses in his letter – the better things that accompany salvation.

These changes are not easily accomplished. We all have grown used to our church and treat it like a comfortable spiritual sofa. We tend not to see the building's wear and tear. We tend to put up with an old computer system, organ, etc. We tend to ignore the state of our classrooms because we only use them once a week. So, what if the state of the building reflects the neglect of our spirit? Don't we tend to put up with things spiritually and rely on God to understand?

The more I get involved with this campaign and this council, the more I understand that it is not about money. It is about who we are as Christians and how we practice our faith. It is both a cultural revolution and a spiritual rebirth, which makes us honestly review our commitment to God and how we seek to serve Him. The better things that accompany salvation mean that the old way of thinking, such as "that will do" will not do, and the phrase "that is enough" just is not enough.

This campaign will change our church for the better. It has already transformed me. The prayer is that the whole congregation will embrace those changes too.

PRAYER: Lord, I ask that you keep us alive and in tune with Your Spirit moving among us. Remind us that we belong to You and our purpose is faithfully serving God's kingdom. Help us work for the better things that accompany salvation so that we may attract and welcome others to Your Church. We pray in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Jana Clarke

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Member

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2023

February 20, 2023



The Executive Council administration was voted upon: Jacy Reeves as President
Becca Reeves as Vice-President
Rebe Penshorn as Secretary

Executive Session

Correspondence and Reports were presented.

Each member received a copy of Council Member Responsibilities, Duties of a Congregation Council Member (as per the ILC Constitution), and Things to Know as a Council Member.

Old Business: Loan Application / Timeline
Council Work Session Dates
New Council Format (flow chart)

New Business: Performance Management Policy Review and Adoption
Parish Hall Rental Inquiries
Update Church Office Software / Digital Programs
Pastor's Requests from Semi-Annual meeting:
Defibrillator – Motion made to purchase and J. Clarke to get grant
SST – Security team needs
Water fountain – Motion passed to get new dispenser
Quarterly single service Sundays – No action
Lenten Offerings to go towards the seminary scholarship in B. Roser's name
Polka Spirit Band from Shiner to perform on Sunday, September 10, 2023
(One service only and followed by an Agape Gathering in the Parish Hall)

March 20, 2023

Parishioner to be Heard: Shasta Franklin proposed selling shirts for a VBS fundraiser and to promote the church. Vacation Bible School will be July 16th – 20th.

Correspondence and Reports were presented.

Old Business: Loan Application – Ongoing
Council Work Session on April 13th
Water Dispenser – Old one removed; Chrystal to order new one with cups
SST – Motion passed to set up Security Fund

New Business: Choir Risers
VBS
Budget for Defibrillator – Motion passed to purchase at discounted price;
J. Clarke to check with EMT's to set up training on how to use the AED's
Audit Committee Parameters – Tabled
Agape Session Talks by Council Members – Upcoming

Executive Session

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Council would like to thank our Thrivent members for their continued support of our ministry! Through Thrivent's charitable outreach program, Thrivent Choice, ILC has received \$477.00 this year. These generous Choice Dollar donations are true testaments of your faith and commitment to spreading the Gospel.

If you haven't yet participated in Thrivent Choice but would like to do so or learn more about the program, visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice. You can also contact your Thrivent financial professional.

Chrystal Coble,

ILC Treasurer

A Note from the Treasurer

The 2023 Spend Plan of \$220,348.50 was approved at the semi-annual congregation meeting in January. This plan includes predicted expenditures for items such as worship supplies, congregational life activities, benevolences, utilities, insurance, office administration, salaries and benefits. It does not include dedicated account expenses. Operating expenses for the 1st Qtr. of 2023 were \$49,534.15.

The Bible encourages giving that is done voluntarily and with the right motive. **"Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"** 2 Corinthians 9:7. We appreciate your sacrificial gifts to our ministries and I encourage you to trust God and Immanuel Lutheran Church to do the ministry which God has entrusted to us. If you have any financial questions or would like to learn more about our financial procedures, please contact our financial team (Chrystal Coble, Treasurer and Cindy Corbin, Financial Secretary).



We are currently in Phase 2 of the parish hall construction. As of 31 March, the balances in the dedicated funds for the parish hall building project are:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Building Fund | \$ 183,071.79 |
| Building Furnishings | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Building Kitchen | \$ 9,973.01 |
| Total | \$ 203,044.80 |

If you wish to contribute to the general construction expenses for the parish hall, annotate the amount under the Building Fund designation on your offering envelope. If you want to give to the furnishings or kitchen fund, earmark "Bldg. Furnishings" or "Bldg. Kitchen" under the Other category on your offering envelope. Please contact Treasurer, Chrystal Coble (210-865-8205), if you have any questions or need additional information.

"For we are God's fellow workers; You are God's field, God's building"

1 Corinthians 3:9

LV Christian Food Pantry Volunteers from Immanuel Lutheran in March, 2023.

Let's try to have as many again on our next workday - **June 3rd from 8:30 – 11:00 AM!**



Vacation Bible School 2023 – July 16 to July 20, 2023

Plans are underway now for our summer Vacation Bible School, **July 16, 2023 to July 20, 2023 from 5:30pm to 8:30 pm.** Vacation Bible School once again will be held in the evenings. **This year's theme is Keepers of the Kingdom: Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth.** Sign up to volunteer at [ImmanuelLutheranVBS2023.myanswers.com/keepers-of-the-kingdom](https://www.immanuelvbs2023.myanswers.com/keepers-of-the-kingdom), then click on **volunteers at the top**. Once there is a list of volunteers, a volunteer meeting will be scheduled. *We will open registration for the kids in May.* For more information, stay tuned to our Facebook group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/297408141284>

If you have any questions or would like to help, contact Chelsey Thayer or Shasta Franklin.



Tracy Fanning was baptized on April 23rd prior to becoming a member of Immanuel with her husband, Chris.