



# 2025

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

*"Grace Happens  
at the Church on  
the Hill"*

**Sunday Schedule Discipleship Classes 9:15 Worship 10:30**

**Prayer Chain: Claris (512) 627-4132 Financial Secretary: Cindy Barringer**

**Church Administrator / Treasurer: Claris Randlg**



*Pastor Caleb Bahr*

<sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:8-9

Hello ILC!

Happy New Year everyone! New years often mean new beginnings for us, as we try to reorganize our lives to be a little better. After all, that is why we make resolutions. Most resolutions are to make us healthier or for better time management skills. While these are important, our spiritual lives are even more important. What if our resolutions this year made us better followers of Christ? What if we resolved to make some small changes to the most important things in our lives?

*"The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God. Love brings the person to people." ~ Martin Luther*

Just like your body, faith and love are gifts from God, and, just like your body, they can be trained and strengthened. It just takes a little time, and you will be surprised to see how much you will grow.



For a stronger faith, try prayer and Bible reading. You could also add in listening to Christian music as you drive. Always remember to begin where you are. If you have no daily practice, start with prayer. A good way to do this would be to set an alarm on your phone and every time it goes off, stop and pray. It doesn't have to be long or eloquent. Just stop and say hi to God. Thank Him for something. Ask for help with something, small or big. Another great way is to get a devotional book. We have some available for you at the church if you want one! And if you already have a strong devotional life, try going deeper. Talk with God about what you read that day and ask Him to explain it further and then re-read the passage. You never know what God will teach you if you just ask!

For stronger love, this takes practice helping others. Start small. Start with your family. Tell your spouse or kids you love them. Ask if there is anything you can help them with. Take time to stop and pray with each other. This one will strengthen faith and love simultaneously! Then maybe look for volunteer opportunities that fit into your schedule. And for those who are super busy, pick people at random throughout the day and say a short prayer for them. This can be out loud with them (if you are feeling brave) or just to yourself. I guarantee that this will teach you how to love more.

This year, resolve to strengthen your faith and love. There is hope for you yet!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Caleb

 **Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Tracking & Extra** 

Our 50 shoeboxes went to South Sudan & Haiti.

Our \$283 of extra money (after shipping costs) bought goats, bees, chicks & clean water.

*Thank you for supporting this special cause that blesses so many children and families.*



**You and Your Family Are Invited**

**To The Nativity 'Wrap Party'**

*At Immanuel Lutheran Church*

**On Saturday, January 12, 2024 At 4 p.m.**

*The meal will be POTLUCK provided by you!*

*Good Food! Good Friends! Good Fellowship!*

*Hope to see you there!*

**If you still have Nativity signs... please return them at the party or you can drop them by Bonnie's house anytime...**

**at 602 Pintail Lane in Taylor.**

*Please RSVP so we can set a place for you!*

*Bonnie G*

*512-365-8683 [Bonnie-g@austin.rr.com](mailto:Bonnie-g@austin.rr.com)*

**A New Command ~ by Bryce Formwalt**

As Jesus gathered with his disciples for his last supper, he not only communed with them, but he also served them in a unique way. Before the meal began, he took off his outer robe, knelt down with a basin of water and a towel, and washed their feet. It was a stunning act of service by the King of kings and Lord of lords! Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

This familiar text is a reminder of what sets Jesus' followers apart: a self-sacrificing love for one another. Jesus did not say "it would be really neat if you would be nice to one another." He was not asking his followers to tolerate or put up with one another. He did not offer his example of humble service as a suggestion among a buffet of options. He clearly states this as a new command that is a mark of every single disciple of Jesus. Jesus makes the clear connection that this love will be noticed by the world and is key to sharing Jesus' love and bearing witness to the Gospel to the world. So, this loving one another thing is *really* important for our mission in the world!

But what does it mean to love one another? What does this look like in your local church and current ministry context? How do we relate to and connect with one another in ways that are loving, forgiving, serving, encouraging, and, in all ways, build up the body of Christ? As an association of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, I believe that it is essential to connect and relate to one another in ways that strengthen our mutual mission and ministry and lead to healthier churches in each of our communities.

For this reason, I would like you to join me and others from across our association as we take two days to dive deeper into this topic. Our Winter Retreats will gather in beautiful Concan, Texas next month around the theme of "One Another". There are two identical retreats being offered, so choose the one that best fits in your schedule: Sunday evening, February 2 through Tuesday noon, February 4 or Wednesday evening, February 5 through Friday noon, February 7. Each retreat will feature two teaching tracks. LCMC's Coordinator for Leadership and Pastoral Development Christian Huntley will be teaching the Leadership Track while Texas District Council member Barbara Hoover will be leading the Devotional Track.

The retreat is open to all and is an affordable opportunity to grow in your walk with God and develop your relational capacity to love others as Jesus loves us. If you register by January 11, the retreat registration costs \$120 and includes the program, food, and lodging. To learn more and register online, go to [www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat](http://www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat). Feel free to reach out with any questions as we are here to help: 512-942-7776 or [info@lcmctexas.org](mailto:info@lcmctexas.org).

**To Members of WOW**

**December 27, 2024**

I hope all of you had a very Blessed Christmas and are looking forward to a New Year full of health, happiness, and opportunities.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of you as we, Women of the Word, helped with many church functions and occasions here at Immanuel.

**Due to the holidays and since we will be taking down the church decorations on January 5th after the worship service, THERE WILL NOT BE A BAKE SALE OR WOW MEETING IN JANUARY.** We will have a Pot Luck meal with Bingo planned on January 26th. Please plan to join the fun, bring a dish to share, a friend, and prizes for Bingo. Our next WOW Bake Sale and monthly meeting will be on February 2, 2025.

I am looking forward to serving with all of you in the new year. All women of Immanuel are welcome to participate in WOW.

In His Service,

Phyllis Johnson



**Wanted for WOW Jelly Makers** — Used or New 1/2 pint jelly jars (Ball, Mason or Kerr jars only)

Please search your cabinets and bring any jars you don't need to church kitchen. Thank you so much.

**JANUARY USHERS:**

Diane Stromberg Council  
Marvin Stromberg

**JAN. ALTAR GUILD:**

Rebecca Borgne  
Nancy Werchan

**JANUARY LECTORS:**

1/5/25 Bonnie Kaderka  
1/12/25 Sandra Krueger  
1/19/25 Priscilla Pipho  
1/26/25 Kristi Hoestenbach

**JANUARY FLOWERS:**

1/5/25 Jimmie Sheppard, in honor of  
Jimmie Sheppard II, Jennifer Sheppard,  
& Jill Graybill's birthdays  
1/12/25 Kristi Hoestenbach, to the  
glory of God  
1/19/25 Lena Lantsch's Family, in  
memory of Lena Lantsch  
1/26/25 William & Frances Albert, in  
honor of their 61st Anniversary

**JANUARY ACOLYTES:**

1/5/25 Krista  
1/12/25 Makenzie & Analise  
1/19/25 Bodie 1/26/25 FH

**JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**



Lindsay Gosnell.....9th  
Casey Glass.....14th  
Al Atkins.....15th  
Reuben Patschke....19th  
Madelyn Fritz.....25th  
Megan Kruger.....31st

December Memorials Report

MEMORIAL FUND

For: Lena Lantsch -  
By: William & Frances Albert  
Joe & Candy Vogel  
Robert & Rebecca Borgne  
Evelyn Remmert  
Stan & Julie Simonik  
Robert & Bonnie Kaderka  
Morgan & Teresa Wendland  
Gary Klaus Family  
Marilyn Ubben  
James & Patsy Spears  
For: Jacque Newbauer Ellis -  
By: William & Frances Albert  
For: June Schnoer & Paul Perkins -  
By: Al & Jaboa Atkins

CEMETERY FUND

For: Henry Ray & Leona Fritz, Jonathan Fritz,  
Virginia Fritz Crunk & Emma Decker - by Emily  
Simons, Luke Simons & Lacey Simons Delgado

**Pilgrimage to Bethlehem - A Live Nativity 2024 - December 14 & 15, 2024**

**THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THIS EVENT!!!!**

*The Taylor Community has been blessed again this year with this event where we can celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Everyone who planned, organized, participated, attended, and donated is greatly appreciated.*

- ◆ Kick Off for the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the Pilgrimage to Bethlehem was held on October 20, 2024.
- ◆ Wrap party - January 12, 2025
- ◆ There were 133 cast and support team members. (ranging in age 5-95)
- ◆ We had 195 visitors on Saturday night and 385 visitors on Sunday night for a total of 580.
- ◆ \$1,042.00 and 93 pounds of food donations were received that was donated equally to Hutto Food Pantry and Shepherd's Heart in Taylor.

**A big Thank You to Team Leaders and to everyone who participated....  
Nativity would not have happened without you.**

Participating Area Churches: Immanuel Lutheran, Taylor....Prince of Peace Lutheran, Taylor....First Baptist, Taylor  
The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, Taylor....St. John Lutheran, Thrall....Memorial Baptist, Taylor  
Faith Lutheran, Austin....St. Mary's Catholic, Taylor....First Baptist, Granger....Christ Lutheran, Georgetown  
First Baptist, Pflugerville....First Baptist, Thrall....St. Paul Lutheran, Thorndale...Hutto Community Church, Hutto  
Trinity Lutheran, Taylor....Lost Pines Cowboy Church, Elgin....SS Cyril & Methodius Catholic, Granger

**Council Report**

Church council met at 6:30 p.m. on December 11th. Following Pastor Caleb's devotion and prayer, minutes and financial reports were approved.

During Committee Reports it was decided to divide Focus giving equally between Shepherds Heart, Hutto Resource Center, and Samaritan's Purse Hurricane Relief.

Priscilla reported that the Worship Committee will meet January 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

The effort at Long Range Planning will recommence on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. to discuss and come up with implementation strategies.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was set for January 19<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship service.

The problem of large 18-wheel trucks using our parking lot as a turnaround was discussed. Claris has been in contact with Samsung about the issue.

In other business, council approved the dates for Special Events as requested by WOW. Noisy offering will be designated to the continued need for hurricane relief.

Next council meeting was set for January 15th at 6:30 p.m.

**SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE**

***Will resume meeting in January. Everyone is welcome to join the group on Tuesdays beginning at 10 a.m.***

***The schedule with topics is listed below:***

January 14 .... "In Our Fears and Doubts" .... Genesis 18:1-15

January 21 .... "Dealing With Grief" .... Ruth 1:1-22

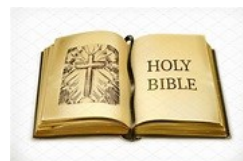
January 28 .... "Passing on Our Ministry" .... 1 Kings 19:19-21

February 4 .... "Failed Expectations" .... 1 Samuel 4:12-18

February 11 .... "Still Work to be Done" .... Luke 2:25-38

February 18 .... "Hope for the Future" .... Joshua 14: 6-15

***It is very helpful to read the verses before coming to the study, but just feel welcome to come when you can, and remember it's BYOB. (That's Bring Your Own Bible!)***





# JANUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1	2	3	4	
SS 9:15 WORSHIP 10:30 AM COMM. Christmas Tree/Decorations Takedown after Service	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SS 9:15 WORSHIP 10:30 Nativity Wrap Party 4 PM	12	13	14	15 COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 PM	16 Praise & Worship Meeting 2 p.m.	17	18 Long-Range Planning Meeting 8:30-11.30am
SS 9:15 WORSHIP 10:30 AM COMM. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after Service	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
SS 9:15 WORSHIP 10:30 in Fellowship Hall POTLUCK & BINGO after Service	26	27	28	29	30	31 FAITH CIRCLE 10 A.M.	

*~ Annual Congregational Meeting ~*  
**Sunday, January 19th**  
**(immediately after service)**

*Come & Enjoy!*  
*Fellowship & Good Food*  
*~~ January 26 ~~*  
*in Fellowship Hall*  
**POTLUCK & B-I-N-G-O**  
*after Service*  
*Please, \$5 minimum on Bingo prizes.*



*Happy New Year!*

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 Church  
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