

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE SHARE THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OUR COMMUNITY”*

**“God is With Us”**

**February 2018**

## **Pastor’s Message**

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel,

On February 14, we begin a new season of the church year. Not Valentine’s (although that is Valentine’s Day), but the season of Lent. Lent is a 40-day period of time in the spring leading up to Holy Week and Easter. For Christians Lent has always been a time to focus on deepening ones faith. We speak of a Lenten journey—a time to draw closer to God through prayer, reading the Bible, worship, and reaching out to others with acts of kindness. One very good way to focus on your faith life during Lent this year is to participate in our Wednesday evening Lenten activities, which will include the following:

- An Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. on February 14. We’ll gather in this beautiful, meditative service to focus our hearts in prayer, song, scripture, and to receive the mark of ashes on our forehead, a sign of our dependence on God’s grace in our human need.

- A series of five Wednesday evening Lenten service gatherings from February 21 to March 21. Each one will run from 7:00 to approximately 7:30 p.m. Our theme this year will be “Services about Service: Being the Church in 2018.” Through this topic we want to explore what it

means to be relevant as a church in our current context here in Silicon Valley. Together we’ll develop ideas for Immanuel’s future ministry, especially as it relates to serving human need – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. More information on this topic is found in this newsletter. Our gatherings will be preceded each week by a soup supper that you can come and enjoy from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. We welcome all to join us for these inspiring sessions.

God’s blessings to you during this season.

Pastor David



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### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

**9:00 AM** – Service with contemporary music | **11:00 AM** – Traditional service and hymns  
**Adult Education** between services | **Youth Group** – 6:00-7:30pm

## **Journey to Bethlehem and Beyond**

### *Personal Encounters in Palestine*

**WHEN:** Sunday, March 11, 5:00 to 7:00pm

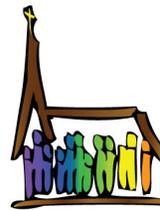
**WHAT:** Join us for an eye-witness account and presentation by Doug and Gisela Daetz based on their experiences in Bethlehem and other communities in the West Bank of Palestine. The emphasis will be on the courageous people they met during their travels. The tour was sponsored by the non-profit BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM, founded by the Palestinian Lutheran Pastor Mitri Raheb. This organization is dedicated to “helping people in the Holy Land have life and have it abundantly”. To that end it supports the health, educational, cultural and spiritual development of people in Palestine and, with international support, has built a university in Bethlehem, DAR AL-KALIMA (Home of the Word), dedicated to educating the youth of Palestine and offering enrichment programs to people of all ages.



Following the presentation light Middle-Eastern fare will be served in the Fellowship Hall. While there is no fee for this event, generous contributions to BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM are encouraged. These contributions will provide much-needed scholarship aid for the students of DAR AL-KALIMA UNIVERSITY.

**WHERE:** The presentation will take place in the sanctuary of Immanuel Lutheran Church and the refreshments will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up on the event attendance sheets provided after Services in the month of February and early March, so the hosts can plan the Middle Eastern food accordingly.



**Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**One Combined Service at 10:00 a.m.**

**Annual Meeting begins approximately 11:20**

**The ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will begin approximately 11:20 in the fellowship hall. Please join us. Your attendance is important.**

## **“Immanuel Reads”**

**Saturday, March 17th, at 5:00 p.m.**

The plan is to select a second book and review two books on Saturday, March 17, followed by a potluck at 6:00. In addition to reviewing “Loving Frank”, our second selection is “Orphan Train” by Christina Baker Kline. “A lovely novel about the search for family that also happens to illuminate a fascinating and forgotten chapter of American history. Beautiful.” (Ann Packer, New York best-selling author.) Terry and Junette had a hard time putting this one down.

**First selection:** “Loving Frank”, by Nancy Horan. “A transporting drama...truly artful fiction.” (The NY Times) “If Frank Lloyd Wright is the reason people will pick up this book, Mamah Borthwick is the reason they will keep reading it. Loving Frank (is) a beautifully designed, innovative and noteworthy work of art.”(Chicago Tribune) Come join us, reading optional.

## **Ladies Evening Group**

The Ladies Evening Group will meet in the Library at church on Tuesday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. Mary Ann Kuenne and Ruth Ann Johnson will be hostesses. Contact Ruth Ann for more information at 408-736-1665 or [raj1036@att.net](mailto:raj1036@att.net).



The Season of Lent begins this year on February 14th. Throughout Christian history the church has seen this six-week long period as a special opportunity to deepen ones faith through practices like worship, prayer, and repentance. Ash Wednesday is the first day in this season and marks the beginning of our Lenten journey toward Good Friday and Easter. We will gather at Immanuel to begin this journey on Feb. 14th at 7:00 p.m. for an Ash Wednesday service. Join us as we focus our hearts in prayer, song, scripture, and the imposition of ashes. Note: there is no Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday.

### Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers

February 21, 28,  
March 7, 14, 21



Don't cook tonight! Come to Immanuel for one of our Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers. Great for families and people of all ages. Soup Suppers run from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite pot of soup to share, or if you don't have time to make soup, bread, salad, or dessert are always appreciated. Even if you can't be there at 6:00, arrive whenever you can between 6-7 PM, to enjoy the meal.



### Wednesday Evening Gatherings - February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

#### Services about Service: Being the Church in 2018

This year beginning at 7 PM (following the soup suppers) our Lenten service gatherings will offer a series of presentations and discussions on Immanuel's direction as we grow our ministry in the near future. Using examples from history and an analysis of our own cultural context here in Silicon Valley 2018, we'll explore what it means to be relevant as a church. Our presentations will relate especially to the topic of working together to serve human need – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Through discussion, video, guest speakers, and practical demonstrations we'll think about our ministry and consider what it means to be a church and to “do church” well in our present context.

#### Additional Information about Our Topic

In the days of the Roman Empire the earliest Christian disciples found ways to build a church that was culturally relevant and attracted others, in spite of the fact that they worked in an atmosphere that was often hostile and dangerous. This process continued as Christians throughout history reshaped the church and its ministry, so that the message of Christ could speak to new generations in new ways. How do we carry on this task today in our current context?

Come to be inspired, to learn, and to work together as we explore this incredibly important topic.

## **Eye of the Storm**

### *An ILC Member's Spiritual Search*

Apologies up front to the populists who might read this, because obviously the artist is way far from sharing their beliefs—in spite of her numerous friends and relatives who do so.

This artist (also retired theologian-minister) was from youth cursed with longing to understand the shifting American social scene. More than that, she has held deep feelings and fears for the result of political battles going on around us. She has also had a lifelong urge to draw the human face and figure, obvious in her own current studio art practice.

Her portraits are usually colored by affection, or at least a hopeful respect for, her subjects. That is the heart of the discipline of drawing friends and strangers in the studio, especially for her, for the past five years.

After the 2016 election, political developments undermined her optimism. Poring over the images of those who rose to power in that time, she struggled to defeat despair and hate. Finally she conceded her openness to the Great Creator to try some active way to a better attitude. The result was the idea to try to create drawings of these challenging people. But could such drawings really give rise to feelings other than hate or fear?

Carol began her series of political portraits in no special order, just as some personality became interesting news. She collected news photos of the most likely possibilities. She would pick one to draw every week or so. This plodding pace increased the energy and attention she had for the task.

The reasons for focusing on the eyes only are hard to put into words. But when thinking of how to look at someone you want to see good in—in spite of seeing so much bad—the eyes do seem the natural place to search. So far the series numbers 11, the most prominent being President Trump.



Each one takes several hours of reflecting, looking, drawing, looking again, revising. The end result is meant to mix a likeness with an expressive idea.

Finished, Carol posts her Eye of the Storm portraits on both her art blog [[www.carolhaywood.wordpress.com](http://www.carolhaywood.wordpress.com)] and her Facebook page [Carol Lois Haywood]. Amazingly she found this series has brought more internet attention than any other art offered over the past 18 years!

Her art colleagues mostly find this project weird if amusing, but gladly offer help with the technical side. They do admit to enjoying them.

Pursuing this exercise has been a relative success. It has yielded her some new inner peace about the state of the world and the nation.

Sometimes making art really is something like praying.

--submitted by Carol Lois Haywood

## **Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2018**

### **Council Members**

*Chad Stearns (President), Lynn North (Vice President), Tom Hampton (Treasurer), Lisa Paulson (Secretary), Dawn Dooley, Jim Hayes, Kim Jackson, Dan Johnson, Jack Knutson, Martha Lambert, Jayne Riemer-Chishty, Jeannette Ring, CJ Stearns, Rich Van Gaasbeck, Pastor David Schick*

### **I. Officers Report**

#### **Pastor's Report**

- David recognized and thanked Kim Jackson for her work as financial secretary, building the Church directory, and outreach to the congregation.
- First communion instruction this Sunday (Jan. 21) for 5 children.
- Confirmation program continues to grow with 2 more youth joining since January 1st. Our total confirmands are 15.

[www.ilclosaltos.com](http://www.ilclosaltos.com)

- Conversations with Thrivent to present personal financial planning workshops to the Congregation. Dates are being proposed.
- David will take vacation on Sundays, February 18 and February 25. Dave Denny will substitute for David on Sunday, February 18; Danny Dye will lead the services on February 25.
- Request moving the next Council Meeting to February 13.

**President's Report** Recognized Kim Jackson for her work managing Church finances, and wished her safe travels over the next year.

**Vice President's Report** No report

**Secretary's Report** No Report

**Treasurer's Report** Report attached (in the council packet.)

- The Endowment Committee proposes The Endowment Committee proposes a grant of \$6,000 to be used to fund Children's Ministry Coordinator in 2018. Martha made a motion that the Council approve the \$6,000 grant to fund the Children's Ministry Coordinator for 2018. Lynn seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
- Need three non-Council members for the audit committee. Pam Stearns volunteered. two more Congregational members are needed to audit prior to month end, ideally January 27th or 28th.

## II. Old Business

- **Discuss Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda** Kim motioned to accept the agenda adding a Youth report and vote on all Endowment members and terms. Dan seconded. Passed unanimously.
- **Nominating Committee** We need one more Council Member and one more Congregational Member
- **Endowment Amendment** Table until the entire member slate is voted upon at the Congregational meeting. Discussion ensued with council members asking questions about the verbiage.

## III. New Business

- **Worship Service Volunteers** Discussion regarding assisting volunteers for worship, how to effectively and efficiently promote volunteering and expand the pool of volunteers.
- **Review the budget for 2018** Tom shared the details of each category for the budget and expenses for 2018. First fruits are 6%. Dawn made a motion for Tom to present the budget to the congregation at the annual meeting. Seconded by Kim and unanimously approved
- **Propose Council Meeting change** for the 13th of February – agreed

## IV. Committee Highlights

### Evangelism

Ads were in two newspapers for Christmas services and new ads for VBS will be in the papers in January and February.

**Fellowship** Ruth Ann Johnson has bought the supplies for Lenten Soup Suppers; the wine and cheese event that was on January 6th was quite successful.

**Finance** The Financial Secretary (Kim's role) will become a three-year term when Mike Schini takes over the role.

**Personnel** No report

**Property** New chairs are in the Sunday School classroom.

**Social Ministry** Great Salvation Army Giving Tree donations for the Christmas holidays.

**Stewardship** See above

**Weddings and Retreats** We have seven confirmed weddings for 2018 and it's only early January.

**Worship and Music** We had wonderful Christmas services with great attendance and the music was fantastic in both services.

**Christian Education** Sunday School is going well & they are hoping to grow the program.

**Children and Teens (CAT)** Youth group strong with 15 in confirmation & making plans for skiing in early February.

**VI. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next council meeting is on February 13; devotions will be said by Dawn Dooley

**V. Announcements and Concerns**

Carla Schick continues her recovery and will go back to work. Our thoughts and prayers are with Natalia Ericson & family (Pastor Jack Ericson's daughter-in-law) who has stage 4 brain cancer and is going through treatments. Carol Gonzales will be having stomach cancer surgery tomorrow (January 17); our thoughts and prayers are with her as well.



*Each month in the newsletter we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries of members at Immanuel. As the year progresses, if you do not see your (or your family members) birthday or anniversary listed, please let the office know. This is especially addressed to our newest members. We don't want to leave anyone out!*

**February Birthdays**

Hank Ford	Feb. 4	Anna-Luisa Feller	Feb. 18
Denise Flagg	Feb. 6	Paul Schick	Feb. 19
Adam Schini	Feb. 6	Judi Mirich	Feb. 20
C.J. Stearns	Feb. 7	Andrew Danford	Feb. 23
Tressa Stearns	Feb. 7	Tom Hampton	Feb. 28
Jessica Spradlin	Feb. 10		
Paula Ford	Feb. 11		
Dolores Fuller	Feb. 15		
Mike Spradlin	Feb. 15		
Carol Gonzales	Feb. 16		
James Hayes	Feb. 16		
Emma Danford	Feb. 18		
Paul Dhuse	Feb. 18		

**February Anniversaries**

Gary & Pat Walz	Feb. 12
Robert & Cheryl Bartholomew	Feb. 14
Denise & Mickey Flagg	Feb. 25
Mary & Carmine Adriani	Feb. 27



## **Vacation Bible School at Immanuel**

**July 16–20**

Immanuel Lutheran Church is offering VBS/Day Camp this year July 16-20. The Day Camp is for all Bay Area children old enough to enter kindergarten through those entering 6th grade. Immanuel also offers Pre-K VBS/Day Camp for children 3-5 years old. This is a half-day program running from 9am to Noon. Trained Staff from Immanuel lead programs that “go beyond Vacation Bible School.”

### **Who:**

- Pre-K through those entering 6th grade  
Pre-K are children 3 and 4 yrs old.
- K-6th grade are children from 5 yrs. old through entering 6th grade
- Parents have the choice of putting their 5 yr. old in either Pre-K or K

### **When:**

**Monday to Thursday**, 9am–3pm,  
(9am–Noon for Pre-K)

**Thursday evening** 6–8pm with potluck and kids program

**Friday** from 9am–Noon (Water Day!!)

Day Camp registration and health forms for each camper must be completed to participate.

*Registration information will be coming soon!*

Bring sunscreen, a water bottle and lunch. Children are given a T-Shirt, mid-morning snacks and they participate in active Bible encounters, crafts, games, songs and will be provided the necessary supplies to have a whole lot of fun in a completely camp fashion!

## **Mexico 2017**

**July 28–August 4**

Mexico is always one of our biggest trips and very memorable. We encourage the youth to experience this trip, even if they have gone before. It is Danny’s favorite week of the year. The cost of the trip is \$450 with a \$150 non-refundable deposit.

If you have any questions on any of the youth trips please let Danny Dye know. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to a fun 2018.

### **Youth Ski Trip Rescheduled to March 2-4**

Due to a few cancellations and lack of female chaperone, we are going to reschedule the ski trip to the weekend of March 2-4. Sorry that we had to reschedule, but it just worked out this way. Our hope is that more kids will be able to attend, and we have time to get the proper chaperone situation set up. Please let Danny know who is able to attend the March youth ski trip.

### **National Youth Gathering June 27-July 1 in Houston**

**Open to youth in grades 8-12**

We have been informed that registrations for the national youth gathering in Houston in June are being held **OPEN** for a few more weeks. To get more information or to register, contact Danny Dye ([dyedanny@me.com](mailto:dyedanny@me.com)). Financial assistance can be made available for any youth that need it.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
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Return Service Requested

***We believe there is no person or created thing outside the active love  
and grace of God shown to us so clearly in Jesus Christ.***

*Immanuel Lutheran Church newsletter is published monthly.*

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