

# Immanuel Lutheran Ministries

## Temple/Belton, Texas

### Our Mission *(What we're doing)*

*Leading our Neighbors to the Joy of Salvation in Jesus Christ*

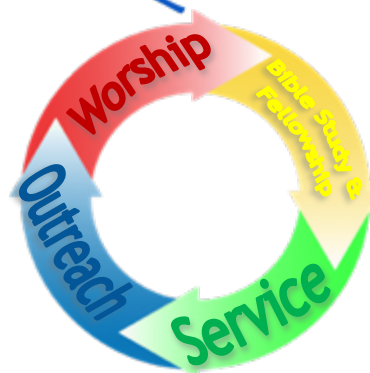
### Our Values *(Why we do this)*

- ◆ Biblical Truth
- ◆ Christ-Centered/Christocentric
- ◆ Family of God
- ◆ Lutheran Heritage
- ◆ Rich Tapestry of Worship
- ◆ Fellowship
- ◆ Responsive to Community Needs



### Our Strategies *(How we're doing this)*

- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Bible Study & Fellowship
- ◆ Service
- ◆ Outreach



### Our Vision: *(What We're Becoming)*

Immanuel Lutheran Ministries is focused on the joy and truth in Christ Jesus. We are spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our local community and beyond. Our congregation is growing spiritually, intentionally developing leaders in our church and community. We are dedicated to providing a Christ-centered approach in all aspects of our ministry.

# Biblical Truth

**Definition:** Using the unchanging word of God as the authority for Godly living (as we lead others to the joy of Jesus Christ).

## Demonstrated by:

- Bible classes, Sunday school, small groups
- Scripture readings during services
- Sermons which expound on the scripture readings
- Confession and creeds
- Scripture is used as a test to keep from following rapidly changing societal norms

## Scripture support:

**John 1:1** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

**Hebrews 13:8** “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

**Matthew 24:35** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

**Psalms 119:89** “Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.”

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

**Psalms 33:11** “The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.”

**Proverbs 3:5** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

# Christ-Centered/Christocentric

**Definition:** The placing of Christ at the center of one's thought, actions, and/or theological system.

## **Demonstrated by:**

- Praying together in Christ's name
- Worship in Christ's name
- Fellowship in Christ's name
- Ministry in Christ's name

## **Scriptural Support:**

**Colossians 2:2-3** "that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

**Ephesians 2:20-22** "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

**Matthew 21:42** "Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

**2 Timothy 2:15** "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

**John 5:24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

**Romans 10:9** "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

**Colossians 1:27** "To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

# Family of God

**Definition:** A community bound together by our shared belief in God and strengthened through meaningful relationships.

## Demonstrated by:

- Praying together
- Worship and communing together
- Welcoming environment
- Bible study
- Fellowship and small groups
- Mission projects
- Voters assembly with representation of all members

## Scripture Support:

**1 John 4:20** "If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

**Psalms 133:1** "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

**Proverbs 17:17** "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

**Proverbs 17:6** "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers."

**Colossians 3:13** "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

**Proverbs 22:6** "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

**Luke 18:16** "But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

**Galatians 6:2** "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

**Mathew 18:20** "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

**Hebrews 10:24-25** "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

**1 Peter 4:8-11** "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

**Ephesians 4:2-3** "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

# Lutheran Heritage

**Definition:** Intentionally teaching Lutheran heritage, which is grounded in scripture, to our children and others.

## Demonstrated by:

- Continued adherence to the mission of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)
- Endorse true, unchanging spiritual principles for God's authority for how we live
- Agreement with Christian doctrines found in Luther's Small Catechism and the Book of Concord
- Encouragement of scripture-based statements of faith to be recited at home and church
- Repetitive opportunities to remember, confess, and adhere to our beliefs in our triune God
- Support spiritual education of all ages to continually build understanding of God's instruction through scripture
- Nurture a saving faith through scripture, faith, and grace

## Scriptural Support:

**Psalms 135:13** "Your name, O Lord, endures forever, your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages."

**Proverbs 22:6** "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

**Colossians 3:16** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

**2 Timothy 3:15** "And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

**Romans 10:10** "For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

**Luke 12:8-9** "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God."

**Deuteronomy 5:10** "But showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

**Psalms 78:5** "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children."

**Psalms 119:152** "Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever."

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

# Rich Tapestry of Worship

**Definition:** Receiving God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through liturgical worship (confessional and sacramental) marked by artistic excellence.

## Demonstrated by:

- Creating a Hunger for God
- Sacred, Sincere, Substantial
- Faithfulness to Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and to those who came before from whom we received the faith
- An understanding that liturgy is defined in the Lutheran Confessions as "public service" in the sense that the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the sacraments is God's service done on behalf of his people.
- An understanding that the liturgy is a teacher of the faith
- Reverence
- Orderliness
- An engaged, vibrantly singing and praying congregation
- Artistic beauty and technical excellence, edifying believers and unbelievers alike
- A focus on in-person worship, the saints gathered together
- We are the body of Christ

## Scripture Support:

**Psalms 29:2** "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness."

**John 4:23** "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him."

**Psalms 130:4** "But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared."

**Exodus 25-40**--In the Old Testament, God locates His saving presence in the tabernacle, where He has promised to be found. Today, He locates His blessings of salvation for us in the Word and Sacraments of His Church. Note in these chapters the extensive detail of God's instructions for worship.

**Psalms 51:15** "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise."

**Isaiah 55:10-11** "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

**Romans 12:1** "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

# Fellowship

**Definition:** The sharing of doctrine, Sacraments, and love cultivated by the Holy Spirit.

Greek: koinonia, “sharing,” “participation in a common thing.” Christian fellowship has both a heavenly and an earthly dimension. Also, the support of fellow believers.

## Demonstrated by:

- Commitment to the truth together
- Strong Friendships between members
- Celebration of the traditions that bind us together
- Intentional hospitality, individually and as a congregation
- Specific opportunities for groups to bond: Men, women, singles, & youth/children

## Scripture Support:

**2 Cor 13:14** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

**Eph. 3:6** “This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

**Phil 3:10** “...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming link him in his death...”

**Prov 17:17** “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

**John 15:13** “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

**1 Thes 5:11** “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

# Care for Others/Response to Our Community

**Definition:** Nurturing our church family; Serving our community

## **Demonstrated by:**

- Strong desire to support others in and around our church family
- Encourage the emotional well-being of members
- Foster fellowship and friendship
- Providing resources to support families in their faith walk
- Providing opportunities for outreach in the community

## **Scripture support:**

**Hebrews 13:16** “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

**Matthew 23:11** “The greatest among you shall be your servant.”

**Colossians 3:23-24** “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

**Ephesians 4:32** “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

**Philippians 2:4** “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

**Matthew 25:40** “And the King will answer them, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”