



IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Temple, TX

Dear Immanuel Family,

As we reach the midpoint of this calendar year, the Board of Directors would like to take a moment to reflect with gratitude on the many ways God continues to bless and guide Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Coming so soon after our ROOTED centennial celebration, this season has felt in many ways like an “Ebenezer” moment for our congregation. In Scripture, the prophet Samuel raised a stone of remembrance and called it Ebenezer, saying, *“Thus far the Lord has helped us”* (1 Samuel 7:12).

As we look back on 100 years of ministry and reflect on the first half of this year, we find ourselves filled with that same spirit of gratitude. God has indeed been faithful to Immanuel across generations. Through seasons of challenge and seasons of joy, He has continued to sustain this congregation, strengthen its ministries, and work through His people in powerful ways.

Throughout our ROOTED centennial celebration, we were reminded that this congregation’s story has always been about far more than buildings, programs, or milestones alone. It is ultimately the story of a faithful God working through generations of people gathered around His Word, His grace, and His mission.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the centennial celebration was the opportunity to look both backward with gratitude and forward with renewed purpose. Whether through worship, fellowship, storytelling, or prayer walking throughout Bell County, we were reminded that God continues to call Immanuel outward in love and service to our neighbors and community.

As the Board of Directors, we are deeply grateful for the faithfulness, generosity, and servant-hearted spirit of this congregation. We see it in the many volunteers who faithfully serve behind the scenes, in the dedication of our pastor, vicars, teachers, staff, and ministry leaders, and in the many ways members continue to care for one another and invest in the mission of Immanuel.

We also want to express how encouraged we are by the spirit and unity within the Board of Directors itself. It is truly a joy to serve alongside such a thoughtful, faithful, and dedicated group of leaders who care deeply about the congregation, its ministries, and its future. There is a genuine excitement among the Board about what the Lord is doing at Immanuel, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve during such a meaningful season in the life of the church.

We especially want to thank the congregation for your continued faithful giving and financial support of the ministry of Immanuel. We are grateful to report that offerings remain strong, reflecting both the generosity of this church family and a shared commitment to the mission and future of our congregation. Your stewardship makes ministry possible!

This past year has also included important improvements and updates across our campus. From enhancing the appearance of our grounds and exterior spaces to bringing meaningful updates to our facilities, these efforts reflect our desire to care well for the place God has entrusted to us. Year to date, we have spent around \$137,000 on upgrading our parking lot, landscaping, and other facility improvements.

*Leading our neighbors to the joy of salvation in Jesus Christ,
and building up one another in faith through Word and Sacrament.*

June 23, 2026

At the same time, we also recognize that this work is ongoing. As we look ahead, we remain committed to continuing thoughtful improvements that strengthen our ministries, support future generations, and position Immanuel well for the years to come. We believe our campus should display warmth, hospitality, and readiness for ministry to both our church family and the broader community we serve. We are excited not only about where God has brought us, but also about where He continues to lead us.

We want to celebrate the tremendous impact and continued success of Vacation Bible School at Immanuel. Year after year, VBS provides an incredible opportunity to share the love of Christ with children and families in our church and community. VBS represents one of the many ways Immanuel continues to invest in the next generation and share the hope of Jesus with our neighbors.

We also want to express our appreciation for the excellent leadership and shepherding provided by Pastor Albers. His faithful ministry, steady leadership, and investment in the life of the congregation continue to bless Immanuel. In particular, we are grateful for the care, mentorship, and guidance he is providing to our vicars, Matt Johnson and Darrell Becker, as they continue to grow in ministry and service. We are thankful for the spirit of collaboration, discipleship, and pastoral care that continues to shape the ministry life of our church.

We ask you to please place on your calendar **August 16th** for an important Voters Assembly to discuss and vote to call Vicar Darrell Becker as associate pastor of Immanuel upon his eligibility in the Specific Ministry Program (SMP). This is yet another way that God continues to provide leaders to Immanuel.

As we continue our work as a Board, we also wanted to share a verse that has become an important anchor for our leadership and decision making:

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

— Hebrews 13:16

This passage reflects the kind of congregation we believe God is calling Immanuel to continue being in the years ahead: rooted in Christ, generous in spirit, active in service, and committed to sharing the hope of the Gospel with others.

Our vision remains centered not only on preserving a strong legacy, but on faithfully building for the next generation. We believe God continues to open doors for ministry, discipleship, outreach, and meaningful community impact. The same faithfulness that has carried Immanuel through the past 100 years will continue to guide us into the future. As we move into the second half of this year and beyond our centennial celebration, we do so with confidence that the God who has helped and sustained Immanuel thus far will continue to guide us faithfully into the future.

Thank you for being part of the Immanuel family and for the many ways you continue to serve, encourage, pray, give, and participate in the life of Immanuel Lutheran Church. May we continue to remain ROOTED in Christ, grounded in His Word, united in joyful service to others, and confident in the Lord’s continued faithfulness.

To God alone be the glory for the past 100 years — and for all that is still to come.

With gratitude and hope,

Board of Directors
Immanuel Lutheran Church

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