

COME & CONNECT

ISSUE NO. 1 | JANUARY - 2019



A FRESH START

If you're anything like me, a new calendar year brings a lot of reflection on the past 12 months and planning for the next 12. Many of us may make resolutions or set new goals to achieve in 2019... "new year, new me" type dreams. Some of us may just be recommitting to the goals we set for 2018, but didn't quite reach (or gave up on completely). Either way, culturally, January 1st provides us with a fresh start, a clean slate, a new opportunity to live the lives we've been created to live. As Christians, we know that the lives we're created to live are so much more than improving our physical health or financial security, learning a new skill, or traveling to a new place. At the center of our day-to-day activity is a deeper awareness of a greater purpose. We're called to follow Jesus, and bring others with us. We commit to showing up, to be truly present with, and celebrate with one another; we engage with, care for, and love the people around us; and we continue to learn and grow in our relationship with our Savior, which enables us to do all the rest. Of course, like many of our "new year, new me" declarations, we don't always accomplish what God has planned for us to do. Even when we have the best intentions, the effects of sin sneak up on us and throw us off track, leaving us feeling as though we've failed. However, just like one missed workout doesn't mean we quit exercising altogether until next January 1, one bad day doesn't exempt us from continuing to strive towards the greater purpose we've been given. God provides us with a fresh start EVERY DAY, through our baptism. In Romans 6, Paul reminds us that, through our baptism, we've been connected to Christ's death and resurrection, so that our sinful failures no longer define us. With that fresh start, we get to live our Christian purpose new every day.

Happy New Year and God's Blessings,

Katie Otto, D.C.E.

"WET CEMENT" AUXANO SESSION

Wednesday, January 16
Fellowship Hall

Dinner - 5:30 – 6:00 PM
Discussion - 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Join us for "Wet Cement": An Auxano Presentation, and hear members of our Auxano team update us on the process and the work that has been done thus far. The Auxano team will go into further depth about the new Mission Statement and Values that have been previously presented to the congregation.

Please join us for a very important time of discussion and fellowship!

Childcare will be available.

For more information prior to this event, please contact the Church Office.

NURSERY WORKER

** Are you, or anyone you know, interested in a part-time paid position? **

A nursery caregiver is needed to help co-staff our Church Nursery.

This is a paid position from 7:30 AM until 12 NOON on Sunday mornings.

It will be shared with an alternating schedule.

Please call the Church Office at (979) 542-2918 if you are interested.



MARRIAGE BIBLE STUDY:

Join Pastor Chris & Lauren Nietubicz in the small meeting room on Sundays at 9:15 AM starting on January 13th, for Adult Bible Class for married couples for:

THE CRAZY CYCLE

We know divorce is a major issue in our culture today, both inside and outside the church. Despite our best attempts at love, couples find themselves paralyzed by dysfunction and mired in conflict. In this 4-part series, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs sheds light on an often overlooked, yet indispensable element of a healthy marriage – RESPECT. Combining biblical instruction with scientific expertise, Dr. Emerson provides insight into the unique ways in which God has design both men and women and how they can rightly embrace their differences in marriage.



The entire staff of Immanuel Lutheran Church, School and ECC, would like to thank the congregation and the Church Council for the generosity shown for the Staff Christmas Gifts.

They are truly appreciated by everyone, and we are so grateful to be able to serve the congregation and to serve the Lord with gladness!

JANUARY EVENTS:

06 ADVENT CLEAN-UP
11:45 AM - CHURCH

Following the second service on Sunday, January 6th, volunteers are needed to help take down decorations in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

15 QUILT - A - THON
9 AM - 3 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come help tack quilts. No sewing experience is necessary. You may also pick up material to make 60" x 80" quilt tops. Knitting and crocheting help will also be available.

07 LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY
10 AM - MEETING ROOM

The LifeLight Bible Study group will resume meeting on January 7th. The new topic to be studied is *John: Part 1*.

Study guides will be available for \$10 per book.

16 "WET CEMENT" AUXANO PRESENTATION
5:30 PM - DINNER
6 PM - DISCUSSION

For those who are able, join us for this important presentation and discussion from our Auxano team on the process and work that has been done.

13 SENIOR SINGLES FOR JESUS
2 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

A regular meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13th. There will be games, fellowship, a potluck meal, then a short meeting and devotion.

Call Virginia McKamie at (979) 716-1090.

17 GRIEF SHARE
6:30 PM - SCHOOL LIBRARY

The new 14 week series will begin on Thursday, January 17th. This biblical and Christ-centered program focuses on grief topics associate with the death of a loved one. Contact Kathy Bartels for more information.

WEEKLY MEETS:

MONDAY:
10:30 AM – LifeLight Bible Study (Sm. Mtg. Room)
6:30 PM – Men’s Bible & Basketball (ILS Gym)

WEDNESDAY:
4:15 PM – Jr. High Youth
6:00 PM – Sr. High Youth

THURSDAY:
6:45 PM – Adult Handbells
8:00 PM – Chorale