



# Immanuel Lutheran Church

20 Rocky Mountain Blvd. West  
Lethbridge, Alberta  
403-327-4336

## FEBRUARY 2019

### MEET AND GREETINGS GOING GREAT

We are off to a great start in 2019 as Immanuel comes together in small groups with Pastor Lee facilitating "Meet and Greet" sessions with as many people as possible through to the end of February. So far, 11 groups have met with 118 participants! Thanks to the Board of Education for hosting two groups at the church and special thanks to Ed and Tammy Baedke, John and Hilda Weing, Klaus and Beverly Witzke, Bruce and Geri Mulroy, Carole and Ken McDermott, and Walter and Linda Egli for hosting groups in their homes. Additionally, Pastor Lee was able to meet with the "Mom's Time" group and the youth group.

Pictured here (Brian, Lacey, Callan, and Davin Gillam, Dustin and Alison Napper, Owen Stansall, Justin, Nicole, Adam and Alision Koenig, Barclay, Stacey, Cooper, and Cole Lutz, Alan and Jean Minchau, Katherine Canfield, and Heniz and Shirley Plontzke)



### WHY "MEET AND GREET" WITH PASTOR LEE?

The bigger picture of "why Meet and Greet with Pastor Lee" is to build relationships within the family of faith we lovingly refer to as Immanuel. Immanuel is not a church building. Immanuel is not one hour on Sunday. Immanuel is a congregation, a gathering, and family of faith. Immanuel is a large group of people. That said, to break down the large group into more familiar and relatable parts, we offer a time where smaller groups can gather to meaningfully interact and rub shoulders. With Pastor Lee having only been here since May 2018, he has identified building relationships as one of his ongoing goals and main priorities. Building healthy relationships takes intentionality and time. Another reason for "Meet and Greet" sessions is to share life together not just with the Pastor but with one another as we encourage each other in our journey of faith. We are taking time during each "Meet and Greet" to specifically address the message series "Live Your Calling" and discuss our main theme verse Romans 8:28.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

### FEBRUARY 2019 "MEET AND GREETINGS"

January 2019 saw 11 groups come together. If you haven't done so yet, would you consider signing up for a group in February? If you have already been to a "Meet and Greet", consider hosting one in your home for 6-10 people. Pastor Lee will come ready to facilitate and lead the time together which includes introductions, down to earth conversation around what it means to be called by God, and prayer. It's up to hosts whether you want to put out coffee/tea and snacks (not required though). Our "Meet and Greet" sessions have lasted between 1.5 to 2.5 hours.

### YOUTH GROUP DISCOVERS THE BEST FRENCH FRIES

On Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 18 teens and six adults ventured to six fast food places... KFC, Arby's, New York Fries, Opa of Greece, Five Guys, and McDonalds but not before being introduced to new game called Hall Ball which was appropriately played in one of the hallways in the church. We just wanted to report to you that no one was hurt or sent to the ER



fortunately! If you would like to learn how to play Hall Ball, just ask us and we'll show you. ☺ After Hall Ball, the teens then split into 4 teams and car pooled to each fast food joint. We ordered fries.

We ate fries. We judged the fries. And the verdict is in... the youth have spoken! The overall results revealed that Arby's curly fries were the favourite. If you are interested in passionately serving teens and ensuring that we pass on the gift of faith in Jesus to the next generation in fun, relational, relevant and intentional ways, please speak with Pastor Lee and/or Glenn Murray (Board of Nurture).

A few more pictures:



### REAL. PRESENT. GOD. National Youth Gathering News

We are just six months away from sending a group of youth to the National Youth Gathering! The congregation's support in our fundraising efforts have been amazing. We've done M and M's, bottle returns, concession stand, breakfast sandwiches to help offset costs for the trip. In addition to fundraising, families will be also be paying for a portion of the trip. Estimated cost per person is aprox. \$2100 for the seven day trip which includes registration for the 5 day gathering, all meals, hotel accommodation, airfare, and additional activities while in Minneapolis.

The most recent fundraiser held on January 27, 2019 was so successful! After expenses we drew in over \$700 for the breakfast sandwich sales. Thank you for your support!

Kelsey Whipple, Julia Anton, Emma Marriner, Shay Lindemann, Dean Smith, Alex Smith, Sam Murray, and Kristian Eufemia plus leaders Pastor Lee and Michelle Rodgers will be attending this once every three year gathering! An estimated 25000 teens and leaders will gather for worship, for relationship and faith building, and for spiritual learning and growth that is designed just for them! We can be so thankful we have a wonderful church that dedicated to passing on the faith

to our children. The theme verse for the gathering is

**Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."**

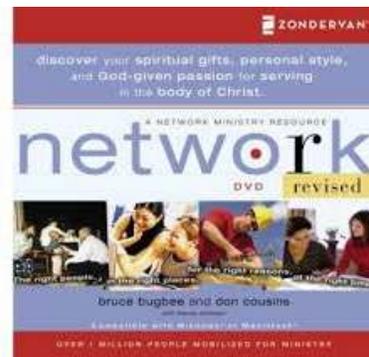
Here we will learn:

**God is REAL.** We are real people with real problems. Real life is at times broken and messy. And because Jesus is real, I can be real.

**God is PRESENT.** God is present in His Word. (Jesus, The Bible, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Proclamation of Good News) God is present through His people. God's presence is our refuge and strength no matter what happens in our lives.

**God is God!** And we are not! And for this we can be thankful. God is all powerful. God is all personal. God is for us in Jesus!

### NETWORK (Coming this March!)



Watch for more details in the coming weeks regarding a six session process we will be offering designed to help you understand who God has uniquely made you to be. It's called NETWORK. This time will serve to guide you to a place of meaningful service in life and the local

church. Participants will be taught the biblical nature and purpose of the church as the body of Christ and the importance of each member's unique contribution.

### CHAIR REPORT

We have many chairs around the building, well over 20 types in fact. You likely are aware of the chairs placed around the common areas like our sanctuary, but just as important as those we have chairs that you may not think of or know about. We have little chairs. In these chairs you will find children in our Sunday School, Little Lambs Preschoolers, kids playing in our nursery and you will even find the teachers and attendants squeezing in and engaging with the kids. We have chairs for bigger kids and youth too! Speaking of big kids... our Board Room is well equipped for chairs! I believe we can thank Habitat for Humanity for those. We have comfy chairs, like those in our Fireside Room, great for small group meetings such as Mom's Time, study and leadership meetings. Need a comfy spot to sit in quiet or talk in private? Check out our Library. Pastor's office has some comfy seating too! We have worker chairs. In these chairs you can find office staff and volunteers such as tellers, bookkeepers, bulletin folders and all sorts of other workers that do so much



in the background. Other chairs you might not think of include outreach programs like quilting and bridge. Last but not least, you probably don't think of chairs that are in storage. We have dilapidated, outdated, and surplus chairs stored in nooks and crannies all over the church building. It is my prayer that you find a chair outside of the sanctuary (and not in storage) that is comfortable for you here at Immanuel! Tyler Rodgers - Chair Man.

### CABINET SHUFFLE

While keeping an eye out for opportunities to encourage, develop and empower leaders in our church, and also recognizing the talents of a couple of PPC members that could be better arranged, the PPC shuffled some officers to start the new year. Chris Marriner has moved away from the Treasurer position as his passion is for Property activities. This works well as we see an increase in property work, particularly with increased facility use, which will require property to have extra support. Baynish has skill sets to fill the Treasurer position and to oversee the new bookkeeper Joanne. Dustin Napper has proved very organized and gifted as a leader in the past, and he now sits as our Vice-chairman. I want to relay to everyone how incredibly talented and dedicate these 3 men are. Baynish is extremely gifted in oversight and finances. We are blessed that he has offered to continue to serve in other administration areas as we require as well as his new position as Treasurer. Chris is one of the most active background workers in our church, in both administrative and physical aspects. If something major is going on, he's likely been part of it or counselled others. Dustin is an inspiring, hard working and committed leader. I cannot think of a better person to serve in the position of Vice chairman right now. Baynish, Chris and Dustin are a blessing to Immanuel. Thank God for providing us these talented and committed servants.

Tyler Rodgers - Chairman

### VISITATION MINISTRY



**Thanks Be to God!** Our visitation ministry has been blessed with 13 servants stepping forward to serve Christ and His people, visiting the lonely, shut-ins and elderly. Starting in the next couple of

weeks 19 individuals will be receiving a visit from one of these 13 servants. There are at least 16 more people from our church family who would benefit from a visit.

Our Vision statement for this ministry reads: The visitation team exists to serve others as they love God and one another by visiting the isolated, home bound, and lonely Disciple of Christ Jesus to encourage and build them up in the love of Christ Jesus through fellowship with other disciples of Jesus from Immanuel Lutheran. James 1:27 says, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

**People Matter to God and to You! Visiting them lets**

**them know you care and belong!** Could you answer this call? Interested or need more information please speak with Katherine Canfield 587-220-1672.

### MEN'S MORNING COFFEE

Building on the coffee group we had in November, we will begin a new men's coffee discussion group Wednesdays



starting February 13th at the church. The target of this group is working men, so we will begin at 6:30am and run for 1 hour. To kick this off we are starting with a series called "Stay Positive". This will be an easy to follow, casual discussion opened by a video while we drink coffee and snack. This six-week series helps us learn to be grateful, confident, enthusiastic and more in spite of all the negativity we experience in this world. Being early in the morning, don't worry about a heavy conversation, you'll be sure to leave this discussion uplifted.

### CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK

The Parish Planning Council in an effort for due diligence has made a policy and standard to require those working with children under the age of 18 years and vulnerable persons have a police record check which includes a vulnerable sector check. This also conforms with the church's insurance policy.

This is a simple and easy process and there is no cost to you. Simply pick up a letter from the church office, take it with two pieces of identification to your local police station. Any cost will be billed to the church.

This is about the nature of the position – not the person. Your position or role in a ministry may place you in a position of trust or authority over children or vulnerable persons. Vulnerable persons are people who, because of their age, disability or circumstance, are more vulnerable than others.

If you have been asked to get your check done, please do so as soon as possible and give a copy to Katherine Canfield. If you are wondering if you need a police check please speak to PPC Chair - Tyler Rodgers, any Elder, or Katherine Canfield

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**We would appreciate your prayers** for our 2019 Vacation Bible School. Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission.

VBS Planning needs to start now! **Our most immediate** need is for someone to answer the call to serve as **VBS Director**.

Immanuel is also looking for Servants to answer the call to fill the following positions. If you could serve in

any of the following capacity please speak to Katherine Canfield as soon as possible.

**VBS Director & Co-Director** – Immediately needed. Do you have the gifts of Organization and Administration? Please consider serving in this capacity. Start now and have input into the curriculum and VBS you would like to see happen.

**Opening / Closing Leader(s)** – Are you energetic, enthusiastic and excited to lead children in devotion, songs and pray?

**Music Leader** – Are you gifted with singing, connecting with children and enthusiastic to lead children in praise and worship?

**PowerPoint Sound Operator** – Are Proficient and with use of PowerPoint & Sound system. Willing to learn?

**Decorator Coordinator** – Do you have an imagination and talent for decorating and setting the stage for a theme? Please consider serving in this capacity.

**Storytelling, Games, Crafts and Bible Challenge Leaders are needed** – Servants are needed to lead each of these activity circuits.

**Approximately 10 Group Shepherds** are needed to guide groups of children as the move from circuit activity to circuit activity; connecting, encouraging and interacting with the children of their designated group

## PLAY STRUCTURE

Yes, you read that right! Who doesn't get excited by a play structure? When asked what a dream for Little Lambs was, the response from the staff and leadership of LL was an outdoor-play-space. Board of Nurture is seeking a few volunteers to form a committee to work out the details and apply for grants to make this dream come true. This is probably the coolest committee we've formed in a while. Talk to Tyler Rodgers or Glen Murray for more information if you would like to help out with this.



## CHURCH CLEANUP



Think of the rooms we have in the church that have exterior windows... not too many right? Did you know we have two that are used for storage? We have accumulated a lot of things over the years, much of which is out dated and no longer of use. It's time for a clean up. Property along with a collaboration of other boards will be organizing a Church Clean up on Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be looking for some volunteers to help clear out and clean up. Look for a sign up sheet in the narthex if you can help with this

## WHAT MOM'S TIME HAS MEANT TO ME

"I started attending the mom's time group when my daughter was 3 weeks old. Having moved to Lethbridge I did not know a lot of people, when a family friend told me about the mom's time group. I needed to get out of the house so I decided to try out the group and I am so glad I did! The moms that attend the group have been so welcoming and kind! They truly have a servant's heart. It has been a God send to know that the moms in the group are there if I have any questions or just need someone to talk to. I am truly grateful that Immanuel has such wonderful moms. If you are a parent and looking for a wonderful group of Godly women, please consider attending the moms time. The group is so welcoming and inclusive. It has been wonderful for my family."

Mikaela Bolduc

## NEW AND EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE MOM'S TIME GROUP!

Beginning February 14<sup>th</sup> Mom's Time will have a childcare provider to care for the children as Moms participate in conversation and topic discussions.

We meet twice a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month is a topic presentation and discussion and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month will be coffee and conversation starters. February and March topic are:

February 14<sup>th</sup> Topic: Love Language –What does it mean? How do you use it to connect and deepen your relationships with others?

February 28<sup>th</sup> Coffee and Conversation with Fun Conversation Starters

March 14<sup>th</sup> Topic: Impact of Media and Technology on families/children

March 28<sup>th</sup> Coffee and conversation with Fun conversation Starters

Bring a friend and join us we would love to meet you! Have any questions please call Katherine Canfield 587-220-1672.

## LITTLE LAMBS

Little Lambs - Registration has now begun for the 2019-20 school year. Returning families and church families interested can register now. Registration opens to the public at our Open House on Wednesday - February 6 at 6:00 p.m.



## WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR



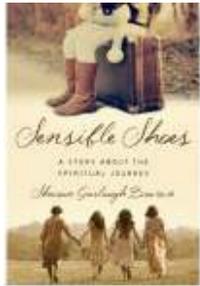
Dear Immanuel Church Family we are hosting the Watoto Children's Choir Feb.27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and need 10 Billets:  
8 homes for 1 Adult & 1 child each

2 homes for 1 adult & 2 children each  
 Donations for the cost of 3 moderately price hotel rooms would be appreciated. (1 for the Choir Team Leader & 1 for each of the 2 drivers)  
 If you are willing and able to provide some Christian Hospitality by providing a billet, please speak with Rita Boltezar or Katherine Canfield.

to be replaced etc. Cost is approximately 5,000.00

- Our Fellowship group is conducting an inventory of the kitchen
- We hope to have a team (6-8) participate in the BC Mission Boat Ministry this fall.

**SENSIBLE SHOES #1: A STORY ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY BY [SHARON GARLOUGH BROWN](#)**



A moving story of four strangers as they embark together on a journey of spiritual formation: Hannah, a pastor who doesn't realize how exhausted she is. Meg, a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past. Mara, a woman who has experienced a lifetime of rejection and is now trying to navigate a difficult marriage. Charissa, a hard-working graduate student who wants

to get things right. You're invited to join these four women as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation. Along the way, readers will be taken into a new understanding of key spiritual practices and find tangible support for the deeper life with God.



Follow their journey in Books #2, #3, #4ensible Shoes

**BRIDGE TAEKWON-DO**



Looking to get in great shape and develop mental focus in a safe community-based environment? Bridge Taekwon-Do club will be offering classes at Immanuel on Monday and Wednesdays starting in March. The instructors - Chris and Sonya

Howes are a husband and wife based team that has recently moved to Lethbridge from Calgary where they ran Lightning Family Martial Arts for almost 20 years; previous members of Team Canada and are highly family and child focussed. Taekwon-Do is based on teaching courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control, and is a fantastic foundation for students of all ages. Check out Bridge Taekwon-Do at their website [www.bridgetkd.com](http://www.bridgetkd.com) or on their Facebook page [fb.com/bridgetaekwondo](https://fb.com/bridgetaekwondo).



- Our Property team has been busy with Fire suppression system issues. The air pump needs