

DECEMBER 2023

Immanuel Newsletter

GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

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Global Taste of Christmas

Saturday, December 2, 2023

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Doors will open at 2:00 PM



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Congregational Advent Celebration

Sunday, December 10, 2023



Connecting with God

Hello Immanuel church family and friends,

Thank you to those who attended the November 5th All Saints Sunday service. The service included special prayers and remembrances of the members of our church family who joined The Church Triumphant since last year's All Saints Sunday. We were greeted by a beautiful decorated altar on November 12th for our Harvest Home/Erntedankfest Sunday. We thank the team who made this possible! Food that was donated from our members was appreciated. On November 19th, we observed Thanksgiving Sunday with a wonderful service. We had a twin baptism in our church on November 26th! Mr. & Mrs. Anneliese and Tristan Kimball celebrated the baptism of Jakob Andreas Kimball & Kirstyn Ann Kimball. They are the grandchildren of Ann Vetter.



Please remember that any correspondence from Immanuel will be sent in a church addressed envelope and include any letter using our church letterhead.

We give thanks for all of our ministries at Immanuel Lutheran Church. We are grateful for everyone that supports our church community in any capacity that you are able to! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or would like to get involved with our ministries.

December will be a month of special events (please see the calendar on the back page) and special worship services at Immanuel. We encourage you to be present in worship either on campus, online or by telephone. Please see page 3 for our special December worship calendar.

In closing, I am reprinting part of Pastor Hahn's Christmas 2022/January 2023 Newsletter article for us all to read on page 3. Perhaps we could all take a few minutes in our crazy and busy schedule to reach out to someone who could use words of encouragement either by a call, card, or a visit during the Christmas season.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas filled with peace, love, and joy!

Merry Christmas,
Christine Blankenhorn

President's
Corner

“There are a good number of members and friends of our church family for whom this Christmas will be difficult.

It may be the first Christmas without a beloved spouse, parent, family member, special friend, or neighbor. It may be a Christmas impacted by health challenges or relationship complications. It may be a difficult Christmas for a variety of reasons.

And most, if not all, of the circumstances that make Christmas and “the holidays” challenging require some kind of outside intervention to make them less challenging. A rescuer, a savior, would indeed come in handy.

I surmise that the gentleman who wrote the lyrics for “Silent Night” was aware of this. And so, he penned a song that thrusts the promise of Christmas straight into our hurting hearts, minds, souls, and bodies. “Christ, the Savior is born.” For you. For me. For everyone struggling. Now. Here. Today. In our unique circumstance. We are not alone. God is with us.

It is a true blessing that the Christmas promise is not limited to Christmas Eve or Christmas Day; not even to the Twelve Days of Christmas. The promise is a “24/7/365 promise.” It might be a good spiritual practice to sing “Silent Night” with its promise of a very present Savior each evening during the Twelve Days of Christmas.”

- Pastor Hahn
Christmas 2022/January 2023 letter



December 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent
Old Problems and New Beginnings

10:15 AM- Worship service
with Holy Communion

December 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
Prophecy, Patience, and Promise

10:15 AM - Worship Service
11:30 AM - Congregational Advent
Celebration

December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
Give Witness and Rejoice

10:15 AM - Worship Service

December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent
Those Who Hear and Do

10:15 AM - Worship Service

December 24 – Christmas Eve
Hope Born in a World of Humbugs

4:00 PM -German Candlelight Service
6:00 PM -English Candlelight Service

December 25 – Christmas Day
A Place at the Stable

10:15 AM - Worship Service
with Holy Communion

December 31 – 1st Christmas Day
Go In Peace

10:15 AM - Worship Service



Merry Christmas Greetings
from your
Congregational Church Council
and
Mary and Anthony Borneo (Sextons)!

All Saints Sunday/Memorial Sunday

November 5, 2023



All Saints Sunday was celebrated with the names of Immanuel members, family, and friends who died in the past twelve months.

We read each person's name and lit a memorial candle.

We celebrated that death does not have the last word, as we proclaim life eternal in Christ Jesus.

The members remembered:

- *Brandon Byers*
- *Robert Eppinger*
- *Albert Mezger*
- *Carolyn Onimus*
- *Elisabeth Pohl*
- *Armin Ast*
- *Anna Kohut*
- *Hilda Feuchter*
- *Nancy Scholtz*
- *Guenter Herrmann*
- *Walfried "Jack" Koeberlein*
- *Ruth Muggler*
- *Elaine Bradley*

*The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and there shall no torment touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die
and their departure is taken for misery,
and their going from us to be utter destruction.
But they are in peace.*

The friends remembered:

- *Patrick Vetter*
- *Jeanette Szentjobi*
- *Janet Myers*
- *Christopher Trickel*
- *Richard Bryan, Jr.*
- *Dorothy Andrew*
- *Herta Clements*
- *James Humphreys*
- *Anthony Furfari*

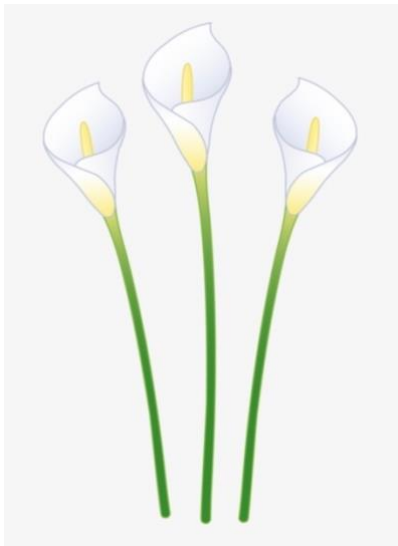
Connecting with Other People



Harvest Home Sunday November 12

Thank you to the volunteers who decorated our beautiful altar. Thank you also to the members and friends who donated Thanksgiving nonperishables for the local food bank.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **Elaine Bradley** who joined The Church Triumphant on November 1. Thank you for keeping Elaine's family and friends in your prayers.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **Barbara Meissner** who joined The Church Triumphant on November 6. Thank you for keeping Barbara's family and friends in your prayers.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **Manfred Eberhardt** who passed away in Germany on November 8. Please keep Manfred's friends and family, especially his sister, Marianne Haug, in your prayers.

What did the furry hat say to
the woolly scarf?



You hang around,
while I go on ahead!

Living Lutheran

Attention *Living Lutheran* subscribers:

ELCA leadership has made the difficult decision to cease the **print** publication of *Living Lutheran* with the November/December 2023 issue. They will transition the magazine into a full online storytelling engine at www.livinglutheran.org

You can also sign up for **LLStories e-digest** to get personalized stories delivered to your email inbox weekly, biweekly or monthly for free.

Register here: www.livinglutheran.org/edigest-signup/

Congregational Advent Celebration

Sunday, December 10, 2023



Please join us on Sunday, December 10th for our Congregational Advent Celebration following our worship service at 10:15 AM. We invite you to the Fellowship Hall for our potluck luncheon, along with a short program, as we enjoy sharing an afternoon of fellowship with friends at Christmas. Please feel free to invite your family and friends, as all are welcome!

To make the potluck luncheon successful, we ask you to consider making a food donation, perhaps a main dish, side dish or a dessert. If you would rather not prepare food, you might offer to bring a beverage or make a financial contribution. We need volunteers to help make this afternoon run smoothly.

Feel free to contact either the church office (215-464-1540) or Christine Blankenhorn to RSVP or if you have any questions. Please let us know if you are attending, how many people will be joining us, what food item you would like to donate, or if you would like to offer to be a cleanup volunteer.



We would like to thank everyone who joined us at our Gift Card Bingo Event that was held on Saturday, November 18th. There were 61 participants who enjoyed 10 rounds of Bingo.

We offered a free door prize. There were many different gift cards to choose from, if you won a Bingo game! We had a 50/50 raffle and also sold tickets for our gift basket raffle of 12 awesome baskets! This year, we sold food, drinks and snacks. Thank you to the participants and their generous food bank donations.

A fun afternoon was had by all and we were able to raise \$600.00 for Immanuel! Sylvia Hansen sold handmade straw stars and proceeds will be donated to Immanuel after selling stars at the Global Taste of Christmas Event.

Thank you,
The Evangelism Team



Making a Difference

Once again this year, poinsettias will adorn our worship space for the Christmas season.

If you wish to donate a plant (\$10 each) as a memorial or in honor of family or friends, please complete the form available on the church campus. Return it along with your payment by mail to the church office or drop in the offering plate on Sunday.

A poinsettia dedication list will be available at our Christmas services and in the January Newsletter.

Christmas Poinsettia Offerings



Poinsettia Offering Forms are available on the Immanuel campus. Alternatively, you can make your own with the following information:

Poinsettia Offering (Please print)

Name: _____

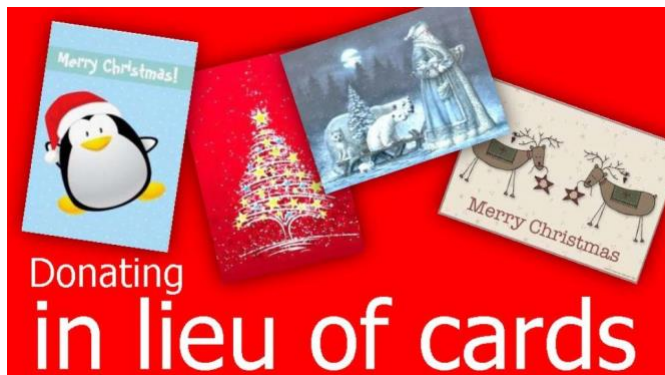
I/we donate _____ poinsettia(s) @ \$10.00 each

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

\$ _____ enclosed

**The deadline for
Christmas Poinsettia Offerings
and
Christmas Card Donations
is
Sunday, December 17.**



In lieu of sending individual Christmas cards to friends and members of our church this year, please consider donating to a single card to our congregation. Your donation will be used to support the mission of Immanuel here on our campus and in our community. Any amount you wish to donate will be appreciated.

Please specify the name(s) you want listed on the card. The Immanuel Lutheran Church Christmas Card will be available at our Christmas services.

Clothing Donations Needed

We are asking for donations to 9 West Jefferson Hospital's emergency clothes closet. It is a clothes closet dedicated for homeless patients who come to the Emergency Room/hospital who are in need of clothing.

The hospital is currently in need of Men's T-shirts, sweatshirts, and pants in sizes Medium/Large/X Large. They also need men's white tube socks, and gloves for the winter.

These items can be gently used or new. There will be a box marked at church for these donations.

Questions? Contact Sally Sears.



If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:17-18

Christmas Gift Donations

Immanuel Church has adopted a KenCrest School family for Christmas. They are a family of three: a 4-year-old girl and her thirty-year-old parents.

There will be paper mittens by the church's front door that will have the family's gift requests on them. Please pick a mitten, purchase the gift, and bring the unwrapped gift back to church. The gifts will be delivered unwrapped to the school.

Please bring all gift donations to church by December 16.

Questions? Contact Sally Sears.



KenCrest is a human services nonprofit with seven early learning centers in Philadelphia. Every winter they host a holiday gift drive for families in their early learning centers, called the Family Fund. The Family Fund was started by Rev. Harvey Davis in 1999 to spread some holiday cheer to the families in our community.

ELCA's Good Gifts

God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.

\$500



Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry.

\$10



Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.

\$50



Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

\$20



Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market.

\$30



Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

\$250

ELCA's Good Gifts is back for another year!

Give through Immanuel by visiting www.ELCA.org/goodgifts.

By completing an order online, you can choose from a large array of gifts. At "checkout" you can get a free card to go with each gift you select.

Have a question? Contact Michele Cook.



The family of Elaine Bradley thanks everyone for their calls, cards, support, and prayers.



GERMAN
LANGUAGE
SCHOOL
CONFERENCE



WORKING TOGETHER FOR GERMAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

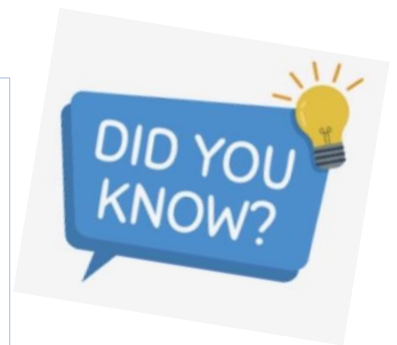
Marianne Haug, Co-Founder, Immanuel Sprachschule (DSS Philadelphia) received this year's GLSC Merit Award. During its 43rd Annual Meeting in New York City, on Saturday, November 11, the GLSC proudly presented Marianne Haug, co-founder of the Immanuel German School, the **Merit Award** of the German Language School Conference.

Frau Haug and Dr. Hausman, Principal of the Immanuel Sprachschule, attended the award ceremony via zoom. Attendees were treated to a Rückblick or retrospective of the history of the Immanuel German School and Frau Haug's many contributions, following which Dr. Renate Ludanyi, President of the GLSC presented her remarks and recollections of Marianne's many contributions to the GLSC.



Many hymns that were written originally for children have captured the imagination of everyone. Such is the case with "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) wrote this beloved Christmas hymn for the Sunday school children at his Philadelphia parish, Holy Trinity Church, following a pilgrimage to Bethlehem in 1865, according to British hymnologist J. R. Watson. The hymn was printed on an informal leaflet in December 1868 and then appeared in The Sunday School Hymnal in 1871.



DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>To stay updated on the happenings at Immanuel, make sure to read your weekly e-news.</p> <p>“What’s New at Immanuel” arrives in your email inbox every Friday (around noon.)</p> <p>Don’t get the e-news, but wish you did? Contact our Editor, Carrie Cook</p>					1	2 9:30 AM Immanuel German School 2:30 PM Global Taste of Christmas
3 1st Sunday in Advent 10:15 AM Worship Service <i>with Holy Communion</i>	4	5 1:30 PM Member Care Team 7:00PM Evangelism Team	6	7	8	9 9:30 AM Immanuel German School
10 2nd Sunday in Advent 10:15 AM Worship Service Congregational Advent Celebration with Potluck Luncheon	11	12	13	14	15	16 9:30 AM Immanuel German School
17 3rd Sunday in Advent 10:15 AM Worship Service	18	19	20 7:00 PM Congregation Council	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 4:00 PM German Candlelight Service 6:00 PM English Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10:15 AM Worship Service <i>With Holy Communion</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31 1st Christmas Day 10:15 AM Worship Service						