

MAY 2023

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
*Connecting people with God and with other people
to make a difference!*
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www.ImmanuelPhilly.org

**A MONTH
OF
HOME ESSENTIALS**



**Bring donations of
personal care and
household items
to the Immanuel campus
this month!**

See details on Page 6.

Immanuel Newsletter **GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS**

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CONNECTING WITH GOD

My dear Immanuel church family,

There is no denying it: Although we are a bilingual congregation, and you all are doing a great job mingling across language lines, our congregation has very deep German roots. The addition of English as a worship language, though welcome, happened only a few decades ago.

We sadly acknowledge that our German congregation is no longer as sizeable as it once was—a fact that is true for nearly all German speaking congregations across the globe (and for congregations speaking all kinds of languages, except maybe Korean and African dialects).

On the bright side, however, our recent German worship attendance of about 30-35 persons (20-25 in the building, 10 or so online) makes us one of the stronger and more resilient German-speaking congregations on the American continent.

This became clear to me and Barbara Krewson, when we represented Immanuel at the gathering of the German Evangelical-Lutheran Conference in North America (GELCINA) in Washington, D.C. and were able to compare notes with representatives from other congregations in the U.S. and Canada.

An extra bonus and very special treat for Barbara and me was the opportunity to mingle with pastors and laypersons from German-speaking congregations in Central and South America on the last day of our conference. It seems that joys and sadness, challenges and celebrations are international, although with local flavors and varieties mixed in.

In addition to learning about creative ministry and successful outreach in our international sister congregations, there was the opportunity for two workshops (see picture) on “church revitalization after Covid” with Dr. Jessica Anschutz from the Church Leadership Institute at Wesleyan University in Washington, D.C.



If you, my brothers and sisters at Immanuel, want to throw your weight--i.e., your prayers, your time, your talent, and your financial gifts—behind strengthening and growing our congregation’s vitality, I have plenty of new ideas and suggestions. I will work on adapting the ideas for our context during some Continuing Education time in the near future.

One final note: After four years of serving as the President of GELCINA, I was able to pass the leadership baton to the next generation.

God’s Peace! PH

Installation of Congregation Council

April 23, 2023



L to r: Dave Brabazon, Barbara Hannon, Sally Sears, Christine Blankenhorn (President), Judi Hannigan (Vice-Pres.), Marion Morris (Recording Secretary), Margret Rommel (Treasurer), Elaine Bradley (Financial Secretary), Jim Clements, and Pastor Hahn.

Eine Frau mit Talar und Feuerwehrhelm

Britta Stender ist eine sportliche Frau mit kurzen Haaren, randloser Brille und klarer Stimme. Herzlich muss sie lachen bei der Frage, ob sie sich als mutigen Menschen bezeichnen würde. "Mut ist ein großes Wort, das passt nicht zu mir. Ich bin eher frischen Mutes und habe eine optimistische Grundhaltung, mit der ich mich den Dingen stelle", meint sie.

Außenstehende würden allerdings schon an Mut, zumindest Unerschrockenheit, denken, wenn sie von ihrem Beruf und Lebensweg erfahren: Britta Stender ist Pastorin mit Schwerpunkt Notfallseelsorge - und vor vier Jahren wurde sie als erste Frau bundesweit zur Wehrführerin einer Freiwilligen Feuerwehr gewählt. Bei zahllosen Unfällen und Rettungseinsätzen war sie vor Ort, tröstete verzweifelte Angehörige.

Die Erste Hilfe für die Seele bleibt auch in Elmshorn ihr Bereich neben der Organisation der Gemeindegeschäfte. Dort deckt sie mit einem Kollegen die Notfallseelsorge im Kreis Pinneberg ab. "Menschen in Notlagen beizustehen, ist für mich das Sinnvollste, was ich tun kann. Anders ausgedrückt: Vielleicht hat Gott mich dahin gestellt. Ich brauche keinen Mut, sondern gehe hin mit dem Handwerkszeug, das ich habe", sagt sie.

Der Weg zur Feuerwehr ergab sich zufällig. Während ihrer ersten Pastorinnenstelle wohnte Stender im Dorf Sieseby an der Schlei, der Nachbar war stellvertretender Wehrführer. Die junge Frau stellte ihm ein Notfallseelsorgekonzept für die Feuerwehr vor, der Nachbar nahm es an und überredete sie, Feuerwehrfrau zu werden. Viele Lehrgangs-Wochenenden folgten, dann hatte sie die Prüfung zur

Atemschutzgeräteträgerin bestanden und durfte auch Löschfahrzeuge fahren, das sei "echt cool".

Trotz der zusätzlichen Belastung bleibt das Ehrenamt bei der Feuerwehr für Stender ein wichtiger Ausgleich. "Dort komme ich mit Menschen in Kontakt, die nichts mit Kirche zu tun haben. Da geht es um andere Themen und es ist spannend, mal ohne die kirchliche Brille auf die Welt zu blicken. Ich brauche diese Auseinandersetzung."



Wenn sie an die vergangene Silvesternacht denkt, bekommt ihre Stimme einen ernsten Klang. Es gab einen Wohnungsbrand mit einem Toten und auch in Elmshorn wurden Einsatzkräfte bedroht. "Die Kollegen werden Mut brauchen, wenn der Pieper einen Einsatz in genau dem Viertel meldet."

Seelsorge, Einsatzleitung, Gemeindegearbeit - Stenders Terminkalender ist voll. Zum Glück gibt es Oskar, den Terriermix. Mit ihrem Hund macht die unerschrockene Frau lange Spaziergänge, um zu entspannen und den Kopf frei zu bekommen. Wenn das Ehepaar Urlaub hat, fahren beide am liebsten mit dem Wohnmobil los Richtung Nordsee.

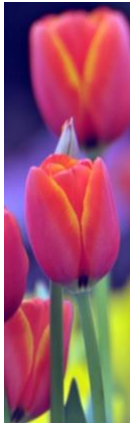
Apropos Mut: "Ich wünsche mir mehr Mut von meiner Kirche", sagt Britta Stender. "Wir können selbstbewusster die frohe Botschaft verkünden. Sie trägt in schweren Zeiten, da brauchen wir uns nicht zu verstecken."

Der ganze Artikel ist zu lesen bei <https://www.evangelisch.de/inhalte/213265/08-03-2023/optimismus-mut-und-trost-eine-frau-mit-talar-und-feuerwehrhelm>

For an English translation of this article about a pastor who also leads a volunteer fire department contact Pastor Hahn.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

To the Moms Who Are



To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.
To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.
To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.
To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.
To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.
To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.
To those remembering Moms no longer with us.
To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.
Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.

- Hannah Kardon, Pastor at Elston Avenue United Methodist Church

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the Daniels, Heilemann, and Trickel families as they mourn the death of **Christopher M. Trickel**. Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the McDonough, Sears, and Scheidt families on the death of **Thomas McDonough** (Sally Sears' uncle), who joined The Church Triumphant on April 24. Please keep Thomas' family and friends in your prayers.



Lutheran Day

Join other fans at Citizens Bank Park on Saturday, May 20 when the Phillies host the Chicago Cubs at 4:05 PM for Lutheran Day.

A \$4 per ticket Fundraising Rebate Fee will be applied to your order and those proceeds will benefit SEPA Synod Youth Programs.

To order your tickets, visit www.phillies.com/lutheran and use the password LUTHERAN.

Women's Brunch

Saturday, May 20
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The works of the Lord are great.

Psalm 111:2

Please join us as we grow in our understanding of how each of us is a masterpiece made by God.

We will enjoy a nice brunch as we share fellowship, reflect on God's Word, and create a "masterpiece" to take home.

Donation: \$5.00

Please reserve by May 14th.

To make an online reservation:

www.signupgenius.com/go/904044fa9ad28a7fc1-womens

For more information:

Judy Friedman

Marion Morris



Calling All Seniors!

Seniors' Lunch

**Thursday, June 8
11:00 AM – 2:00PM**

The Evangelism and Member Care Teams have been busy getting speakers and lots of information about *free* services for Seniors in Philadelphia, Bucks and Montgomery Counties. We would like to share this with you!

Join us for a free lunch with speakers from the City of Philadelphia, the Fire Department, and more!

Sign up soon as seating will be limited. Deadline to register is Sunday, June 4. Please let us know if you need transportation.

Please contact Margot Purucker or Judy Friedman.

A Thrivent Action Team Event

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

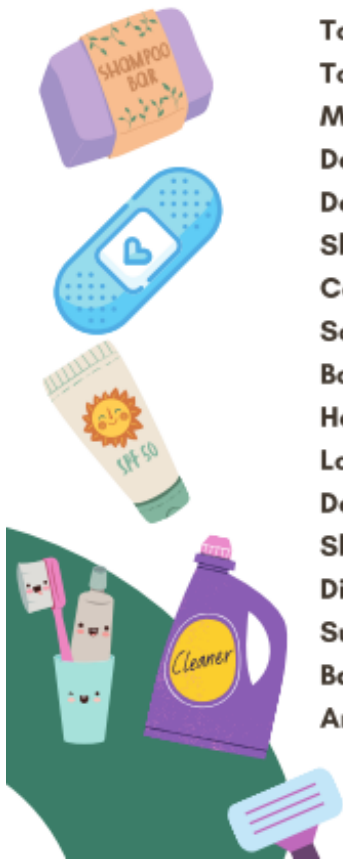
A MONTH OF HOME ESSENTIALS



We thank members and friends of Immanuel for generously donating nonperishable food items for our local food bank.

The households that Feast of Justice serves are also in need of non-food items for the households they serve. **During May, we would appreciate donations of personal care and household items.**

Please join us in "A Month of Home Essentials" by donating from the items listed below. Bring contributions with you to worship on Sunday or deliver them to the church campus during the week. (Give the church office a heads-up by calling 215-464-1540.)



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Dental Floss
- Denture Tablets
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Soap
- Body Wash
- Hand Soap
- Lotions
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream
- Disposable Razors
- Sunscreen
- Band Aids
- Antiseptic

HOUSEHOLD

- Paper Towels
- Zip Lock Bags
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Wrap
- Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Fabric Softener
- All Purpose Clean
- Cleaning Wipes
- Window Cleaner
- Sponges



Thank you to Christine Blankenhorn and Marion Morris for representing Immanuel at the Synod Assembly on May 5 and 6!



Easter Event at Immanuel April 8, 2023



A big thank you to all who helped make the Easter Event a successful event; it couldn't have happened without you. Whether you donated empty egg cartons, filled eggs on Palm Sunday or helped with set-up, crafts or clean up, you were a vital part of the event.

Our statistics are impressive, there were 73 children with 38 adults in attendance who provided 91 items of non-perishable food items for the local food bank as well as \$35 in cash.

Pastor told the Easter Story, a couple crafts were provided, and we ended with the Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Bunny also stopped by and posed for pictures with the children. It appeared everyone had a great time.

We are already looking forward to next year! Again, thank you!!



A friend of our congregation, Jackie, (pictured to the right of Marion Morris) who enjoys participating in many of Immanuel's outreach events thought of Immanuel's food ministry when a friend of hers asked her recently for help moving to a smaller place. Unable to take many of her food supplies with her, Jackie thought of Immanuel's food ministry and brought three bags of groceries to the church campus to be taken to the food bank.



MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:30 PM Member Care Team 7:00 PM Evangelism Team	3	4	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Synod Assembly</div>	6 9:30 AM Immanuel German School
7 Fifth Sunday of Easter 10:15 AM Combined Service	8	9	10	11 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference	12	13
14 Sixth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service <i>All services with Holy Communion</i>	15	16 Election Day	17 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	18 9:30 AM Committee of Deans	19	20 10:00 AM Women's Brunch 4:05 PM Lutheran Day @ the Phillies
21 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service <i>All services with Holy Communion</i>	22	23 7:00 PM Finance Team	24 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	25 7:00 PM Congregation Council	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday 10:15 AM Combined Service	29 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	30	31 Tulsa Massacre Anniversary 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study			