



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Connecting people with God and other people
to make a difference!*

14100 Worthington Road

Philadelphia, PA 19116-1406

Tel.: 215-464-1540 FAX: 215-677-2433

Ministers: *Members and Friends of the Congregation*

Pastor: *The Rev. Norbert F. Hahn, Ph.D.*

Christmas 2022 and January 2023 Newsletter

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Christmas Eve

4:00 PM German Candlelight
Service

6:00 PM English Candlelight
Service

Christmas Day

10:15 AM Combined Service
with Holy Communion

New Year's Day

10:15 AM Combined Service

All services are held in the building and
are also accessible online and via
telephone!

Connecting with God

From Pastor Hahn:

My dear Immanuel church family,

One of the most beloved

Christmas hymns is “Silent Night, Holy Night.” Verse Two of this great hymn ends with these words: “Christ, the Savior is born.” In the original German it says, “*Christ, der Retter, ist da.*”

I believe that the author of the lyrics, Joseph Mohr, was quite intentional in choosing to say, “the Savior is born” rather than “the Savior was born.” The latter would be an historical statement that puts the singers (us) into the role of distant onlookers gazing at an event that happened a long time ago.

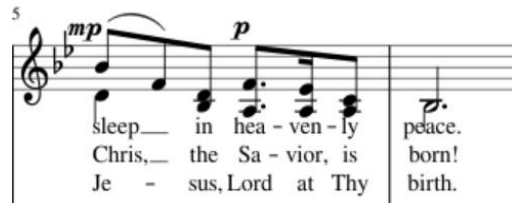
However, when Mohr says “the Savior is born” he puts the singers (us) into the role of participants in the drama of salvation that God initiated with the birth of Christ. Christ is my savior and yours, too. Today. Here. Now.

Jesus saves—but from what and for what? A traditional answer is “FROM sin and death” and FOR an abundant life as God’s children and Christ’s followers. But that sounds a bit abstract, does it not?

Speaking very personally, this Christmas I need Christ to save me and Lyn from the holiday sadness that comes in the aftermath of the recent death of Lyn’s mom. (I also need Christ to rescue me from the pit of despair that comes from seeing, on one side, so many hurting and needy people in the world, and, on the other side, so many people with more than they need but not being able or willing to share.)

There is a good number of members and friends of our church family for whom this Christmas also

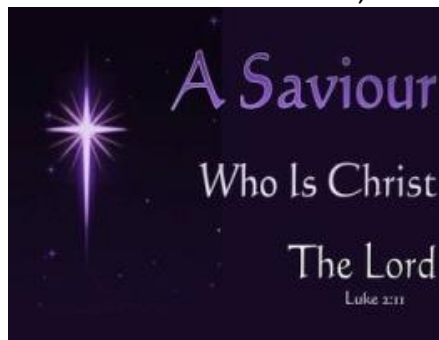
will be difficult. It may be the first Christmas without a beloved spouse, parent, family member, special friend, or neighbor.



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. I will certainly give it a try.

Lyn and I wish you a blessed Christmas and all the best for 2023!



Weihnachtsgeschenke: Was beim Schenken im Gehirn passiert

Sowohl Weihnachten als auch Epiphania (6. Januar, der Tag an dem die Weisen aus dem Morgenland Jesus besuchen und beschenken) haben mit Geschenken zu tun. Eine gute Gelegenheit, mehr übers Schenken zu erfahren:

Erlanger Professorin, Louisa Kulke, hat analysiert, was kindliche Weihnachtsstimmung auslöst oder was beim Schenken im Gehirn passiert. Wer zu Weihnachten seinen Lieben eine Freude mit einem Geschenk machen will, braucht Hirn, sagte sie dem Evangelischen Pressedienst (epd).

Zunächst benötigen Schenkerinnen und Schenker den Hippocampus. "Der ist für das Gedächtnis zuständig", erläuterte Kulke. Ob derjenige, für den das Geschenk sein soll, schon mal einen Wunsch geäußert oder sich kürzlich über etwas sehr gefreut hat, müsste man mithilfe dieses Hirnareals hervorkramen können.

Dann ist der frontale Kortex oder Stirnlappen mit der Arbeit dran. Der wird immer dann aktiv, "wenn wir planen oder entscheiden müssen", sagte Kulke. "Insofern arbeitet er auf Höchsttoure, während wir uns ein besonders schönes Geschenk für unsere Lieben überlegen."

Nachdem nun also ein Entschluss für die Hausschuhe in Pink statt Grün gefallen ist und der Plan gefasst, dem Vater einen Schal zu stricken, ist der Motorkortex im Gehirn anzuwerfen. "Der ist dafür verantwortlich, dass wir

uns bewegen und zum Einkaufen in die Stadt gehen", erläuterte die Wissenschaftlerin.

Im Laden selbst könnte bei den "Auf-den-letzten-Drücker-Käufern" das Fight-and-Flight-System einsetzen. Das treibt im Gehirn den Adrenalinspiegel nach oben, beschreibt sie den

Vorgang eines "Stressschubs". Der lässt einen nach dem letzten Exemplar der pinken Hausschuhe greifen, obwohl sie völlig überteuert sind: "Unsere Muskeln spannen sich an und wir rasen los - ob physisch oder vor dem Bildschirm -, um das ersehnte Geschenk zu ergattern."

Nächster Akt des Weihnachts-Dramas spielt am Christbaum - das Auspacken der Geschenke. Nun kommt es auf den anterioren cingulären Kortex in unserem Gehirn an. Dieses Hirnareal steuert die Erkenntnis, ob das ausgesuchte Geschenk gut ankommt. Kulke sagte dazu, es sei für das "Performance-Monitoring" zuständig.

Und wer jetzt schon an das nächste Fest denkt, der setzt auch wieder den Hippocampus, also das Gedächtnis, in Gang. "Aufpassen ist immer eine

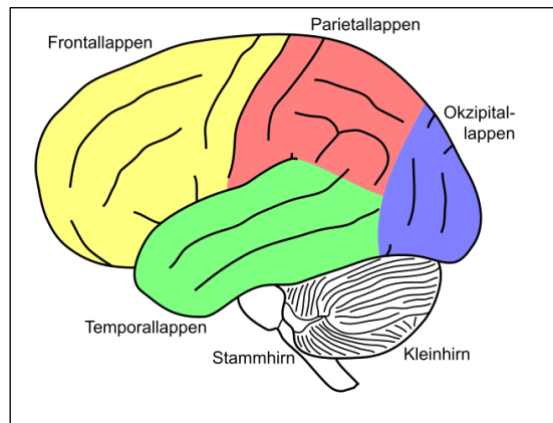
gute Idee", sagte die Entwicklungspsychologin. Der Okzipitallappen arbeitet beim Zugucken, der auditive Cortex ist beim Hören der Dankes- und Freudesbekundungen aktiv.

Ob solche Emotionen der Lieben nicht eher ein "Bauchgefühl" sind? Die Hirnforscherin klärt auf, "es spielt sich immer alles im Gehirn ab". Das aber hat Areale, die Hormone in Gang setzen, "die wir dann im Bauch spüren".

wir dann im Bauch spüren".

Mehr bei evangelisch.de.

Contact Pastor Hahn for an English version.





Jan. 1 – New Year's Day
10:15 AM Combined Holiday
Service

Jan. 8 – Epiphany Sunday
9:30 AM English Service
11:00 AM German Service

Jan. 15 – Baptism of Jesus
9:30 AM English Service*
11:00 AM German Service*
6:30 PM Zoom Only English
Service

**Jan. 22 – Third Sunday after
Epiphany**
9:30 AM English Service
11:00 AM German Service

**Jan. 29 – Fourth Sunday after
Epiphany**
9:30 AM English Service*
11:00 AM German Service*
6:30 PM Zoom Only English
Service

**Holy Communion*

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



The Immanuel Church family extends its Christian Sympathy to Lyn and Pastor Hahn on the recent death of Lyn's mother, **Carole Choate**, who lived in South Carolina. Please continue to keep the Choate and Hahn families in your prayers.



The Immanuel Church family extends its Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **Al Mezger** who joined the Church Triumphant in the night from December 21 to 22. Funeral services will be in early January. Details will be shared once they are known. Please keep Al's family and friends in your prayers.

Connecting with Other People

We wish to extend our appreciation for the many expressions of Christian Sympathy we received from members and friends of Immanuel. Your cards, notes, texts, phone calls, emails, gifts of flowers, and prayers made our grief easier to bear. We are very grateful.

-Pastor and Lyn Hahn



Dear Immanuel Family: Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others can't keep it from themselves. Thanks for everything.

I enjoy the times I can worship in church. I use the computer whenever possible.

Thankful to all of you.

-Erwin Koch

“The Wisdom of the Wise Men”

A Bible Study for the Season of Epiphany



Wednesdays (starting January 18)

10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

In the church building and on Zoom

This study explores the meaning of the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus, both in their original context and in our modern setting. It also explores the background meaning and wisdom traditions surrounding the visit of the wise men to the two-year old Jesus.

Please contact Pastor Hahn if you wish to participate, and when and how you wish to participate.

215.464-1540

PastorHahnILC@gmail.com

Christmas Poinsettia Donations

Ilse Abendroth in memory of loved ones
Dan & Joanne Bitner in memory of Daniel Bitner, Sr.
Dan & Joanne Bitner in memory of Florence Bitner
Dan & Joanne Bitner in memory of James Heist
Dan & Joanne Bitner in memory of Catherine Heist
The Blankenhorn Family in memory of loved ones
Helmut Boehm in memory of Elfriede Boehm
Elaine Bradley in memory of loved ones
Robert Camburn in memory of Julie M. Camburn
Robert Camburn in honor of Christopher Camburn
Robert Camburn in honor of Peter Camburn
Robert Camburn in honor of Devaney Camburn
Roswitha Carle in memory of my parents
Roswitha Carle in memory of my aunt and uncle,
Eugene & Gertrude Walter
Roswitha Carle in memory of my friends,
Jürgen & Marlene Rehnig
Jim Clements in memory of my parents, James & Alma
Jim Clements in memory of my sisters, Alma and
Jeanne
Carolyn Cook in memory of David W. Cook
Michele Cook in memory of David W. Cook
Michele Cook in memory of Carol Choate
Paul & Alma Dallas in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Dallas, Sr. & Family
Paul & Alma Dallas in memory of Paul Kallus & Family
Donna Day in memory of my parents, Mr. & Mrs.
Daniel Day
Donna Day in memory of my brother, Daniel W. Day
Melissa DeVaughn in memory of my Grandparents
Melissa DeVaughn in honor of my Mom and Dad
Karen and Rob Eppinger in memory of our husband &
dad, Robert J. Eppinger
Karen and Rob Eppinger in memory of our parents and
grandparents, Ernst & Doris Knott
Karen and Rob Eppinger in memory of our parents and
grandparents, Robert & Mary Ann Eppinger
Ray & Lisa Erb and Family in memory of Klaus
Abendroth
Ray & Lisa Erb and Family in memory of Anna Mae
Michener
Ray & Lisa Erb and Family in memory of John Bennett
Judy Friedman in memory of my husband Dan
Friedman
Pastor and Lyn Hahn in memory of Carole Choate
Pastor and Lyn Hahn in honor of Lisa Choate
Judi Hannigan in memory of my parents & husband
Eric & Sylvia Hansen in memory of Jack & Lena
Hansen
Eric & Sylvia Hansen in memory of Richard &
Margarete Badke
Eugene C. Haug & Linda M. Schmid in memory of our
parents, Fred & Hilda Haug
Eugene C. Haug & Linda M. Schmid in memory of our
grandparents, Carl & Margaret Schiele
Nancy Heilemann in memory of our daughter, Diana
Francanbandera
Nancy Heilemann in memory of my parents, Ernest &
Anna Schuett
Nancy Heilemann in memory of Bill's parents, William
& Margaret Heilemann
Nancy Heilemann in memory of Bill's brother and
wife, Walter & Ruth Heilemann
Nancy Heilemann in memory of my sister, Linda
Schuett
Nancy Heilemann in memory of my brother, Ernest
Walter Schuett
George C. Herrmann in memory of my parents, Edith
& George Herrmann
George C. Herrmann in memory of my grandmother,
Anna Pahls Herrmann
George C. Herrmann in memory of my aunt and
uncle, Janet & William Herrmann
Guenter Herrmann in memory of Frieda Herrmann
Guenter Herrmann in memory of Wilfred & Elaine
Herrmann
Carl Kaempf in memory of my wife, Gisela Kaempf
Carl Kaempf in memory of my parents, Minnie & Karl
Kaempf and loved ones in Germany
Barbara Krewson in memory of Art Krewson
Barbara Krewson in memory of Marc Krewson
Al Mezger in memory of my dear friend, Carol
Schwinger

Bob and Janet Murset in memory of our parents
 Bob and Janet Murset in memory of our parents
 Nancy O'Neill in memory of my parents, Ed & Eleanor O'Neill
 Nancy O'Neill in memory of my brother, Richard O'Neill
 Margot Purucker in memory of my husband, Willy Purucker
 Margot Purucker in memory of my parents, Alfred and Erna Barthel
 Annette & Gary Rowles in memory of our parents, Irene and Erich Schlottau
 Theo & Rosi Sawadski in memory of loved ones
 Meta Schemaitat in memory of Emma Rege
 Meta Schemaitat in memory of George Schemaitat
 Joan Schmidt in memory of my husband and best friend, Ted Schmidt
 Marlene Stocks in memory of Robert Eppinger
 Denise Young in memory of Doyle & Georgann Cothren
 Fred Zimmerman in memory of my parents, Anna & August Zimmerman
 Gale Zimmerman in memory of my parents, Lillian & Ernest Evans

Christmas Card Donations

Instead of sending cards to many individuals, the following have combined their greetings into this one and have donated all or a portion of the postage safe to the work of the church.



FROM: Ilse Abendroth, Dan and Joanna Bitner, Christine and Stewart Blankenhorn, Helmut Boehm, Elaine Bradley, Paul and Alma Dallas, Pastor and Lyn Hahn, Barbara Hannon, Eric and Sylvia Hansen, Judy Friedman, Marianne and Dorothea Haug, George C. Herrmann, Margot Purucker, Theo and Rosi Sawadski, Margret Rommel, Gale and Fred Zimmerman.

Making a Difference

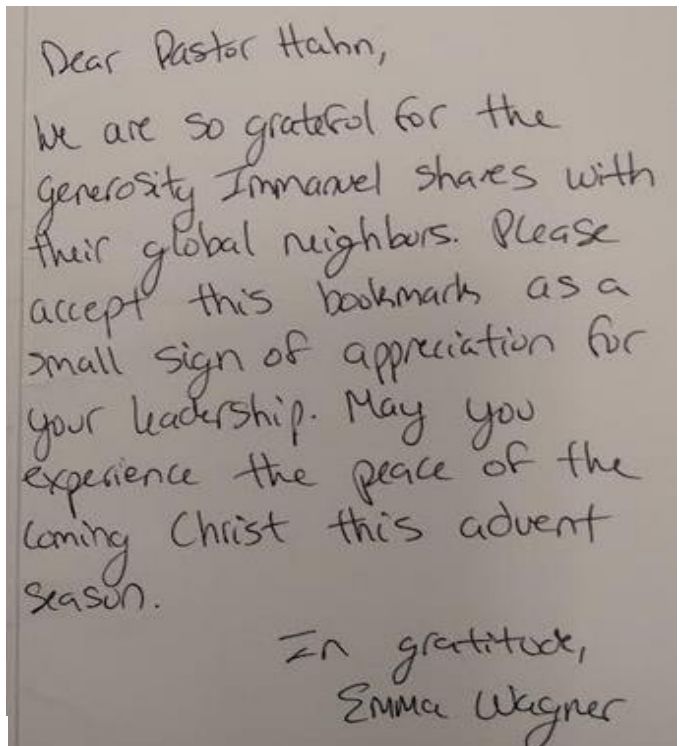
Thank You Received:

FROM Lutheran World Relief:

**FROM Seafarers International House,
 New York, NY:**

Dear Friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Thank you for being a peacemaker by supporting our work towards peace on earth. Over 2,000 seafarers will receive the Joy of the Season with Christmas-at-Sea satches, signs of peace.

Pastor Mash Luther Drege
 Executive Director



JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day First Sunday after Christmas 10:15 AM Combined Service	2	3 1:30 PM Member Care Team	4	5	6 Epiphany Day	7 9:30 AM Immanuel German School
8 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service	9	10 5:30 PM Evangelism Team	11	12 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference	13	14 9:30 AM Immanuel German School
15 The Baptism of Jesus 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service <i>Both services with</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 6:30 PM English Service* (*Zoom Only)	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday <i>Church office</i> <i>closed</i>	17	18 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	19 9:30 AM Deans Mtg.	20 5:00 PM Audit and Congreg. Council	21 9:30 AM Immanuel German School
22 Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service	23	24 10:00 Deans Meeting	25 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study	26	27	28 9:30 AM Immanuel German School
29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service <i>Both services with</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 6:30 PM English Service* (*Zoom Only)	30	31				