

# NOVEMBER 2023

## Immanuel Newsletter GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

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## CONNECTING WITH GOD

Hello Immanuel church family and friends,

Stewardship Sunday was observed on October 15. After the service concluded, Estimate of Giving cards were returned. We then celebrated with a continental breakfast and fellowship. I know you will want to participate in the financial support of our church in the coming year. Please check your US mail for a letter which will have an Estimate of Giving card and return envelope enclosed for members that were not present.

During the summer Council retreats, Council worked on new Mission, Vision, and Goal statements that can be found on page 2. In order to move forward and be successful with our goals, we need your help. Please give prayerful consideration where your time and talents could help us grow.

November will be a month of special worship services at Immanuel, and I hope that you will make every effort to be present in worship either in the building, online or by telephone. On November 5, our church family will observe All Saints Sunday. The service will include special prayers and remembrances of the members of our church family who joined The Church Triumphant since last year's All Saints Sunday. On November 12, we will focus on giving thanks for the harvest (Erntedankfest in German) as well as all the other blessings we receive from God. On November 26, we will celebrate the baptism of the Vetter/Kimball twins.

The plan for a take-out Sauerkraut Supper will, unfortunately, not happen this year due to equipment shipping times. It is our hope that we will be able to have a Ham Supper next Spring.

Looking forward to seeing you at worship. Keep Immanuel in your prayers.

Christine Blankenhorn



# The Mission, Vision, and Goals of Immanuel Lutheran Church 2024-2027

*Presented to the congregation on October 29, 2023*

**The mission** of Immanuel Lutheran Church is to connect people, especially adults, with God and with other people in order to achieve the highest possible level of the abundant life Jesus came to offer.

**Our vision** at Immanuel Lutheran Church is to be known for our devotion to Jesus Christ and our commitment to share his love by providing comprehensive ministries to our congregation and community that encourage spiritual growth, challenge them to serve others, enhance their own personal lives, and allow them opportunities to share their gifts, wisdom, and knowledge with others.

Driven by our mission and striving to achieve our vision, all events and activities at Immanuel Lutheran Church will meet one or more of the following **goals**:

## **Spiritual**

*Deepen our relationship with God and strengthen our walk with Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, Bible study, evangelism, devotional activities, retreats, workshops, musical groups, home-bound sacraments, lending library, etc.*

## **Service to Others**

*Provide opportunities to use the gifts God has given each of us to serve others such as visitation, tutoring, community volunteers, communication projects, helping hands, companion services, shared meals, etc.*

## **Supportive Services for Home-Bound and Facility-Bound**

*For those who can no longer gather at church, bring church connections to them! Serve by helping them remain in their homes longer by doing for them what they used to do for themselves.*

## **Educational**

*Provide general learning opportunities through educational forums, book clubs, classes, discussion groups, educational film, field trips, lending library, and other learning opportunities.*

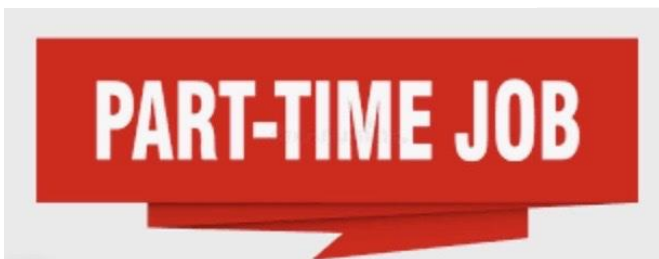
## **Socialization**

*Provide opportunities to grow in relationship with one another while having fun and doing something new including shared meals, recreational outings, game days, movie nights, social networking, etc.*

## **Wellness**

*Promote light exercise (Seniorcise), walking groups, fitness classes, medical preparedness and awareness classes, nutritional workshops, mind and body activities, etc.*

This is an ambitious plan for the years 2024 to 2027 and it will require the support of every member's time, talent and treasure. During the next few months, we will be meeting with each member of Immanuel - one on one - to gather your thoughts, suggestions, and personal needs regarding this plan. Hopefully, everyone will be motivated to help, in some way, to make this plan a reality here at Immanuel - where God is with us!



### **Immanuel has an immediate, part time opening for an Organist/Accompanist.**

We are looking for a person with the ability to play a 24 rank pipe organ with digital choir and bass sections, a Steinway grand piano or electronic keyboard for Sunday worship service as well as seasonal weekday worship. Familiarity with the German language is a plus but not a requirement. The position is per diem and would require 12 hours per month; but can vary depending on Church season. This position can grow according to skills and passion of the individual and the needs of the congregation. Resumes should be forwarded to [organistsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:organistsearchcommittee@gmail.com).

# CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

## Giving Thanks

For the expanding grandeur of creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations:  
We give thanks this day.

For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons:  
We give thanks this day.

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements:  
We give thanks this day.

For our human community, our common past and future hope, our oneness transcending all separation, our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression:  
We give thanks this day.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared:  
We give thanks this day.

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom:  
We give thanks this day.

For human liberty and sacred rites; for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose:  
We give thanks this day.

We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds.  
We give thanks this day.

- O. Eugene Pickett

IN CHRISTIAN  
SYMPATHY



We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **Ruth Muggler**, who joined The Church Triumphant on October 23. Please keep Ruth's family and friends in your prayers.



Hope you can join us! Social Event, all are welcome!

### **We are meeting for lunch!**

When: Tuesday November 28th at 12:30 PM

Where: La Casa Di Lucia

14425 Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia, 19116

Check out the menu on their website – [www.lacasadiluciamenu.com](http://www.lacasadiluciamenu.com)

**If you would like to join us, please respond by Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> so we can make a reservation.**

We can meet at the church and carpool if that's more convenient.

Contact - Margot Purucker or  
Judy Friedman



**Saturday, November 18**

**12:30 - 3:00 PM**

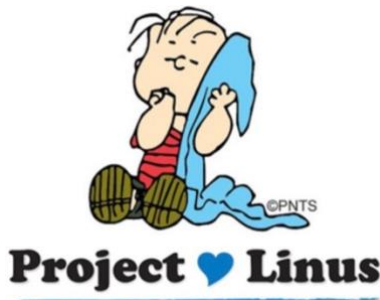
Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for an afternoon of **BINGO** games and gift card prizes. There will also be tickets for sale for our Gift Basket Raffle (baskets valued between \$20-\$25) as well as tickets for a 50/50 Raffle. All proceeds will benefit Immanuel.

Hot dogs, snacks, desserts, and drinks will be available for purchase. Doors will open at **12:00 Noon**. We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 215-464-1540 and leave a message for Chris.

Admission is free; however, we ask that you please bring a nonperishable food item (or items) as a donation for our local food bank.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



A heartfelt "thank you" to the ladies, who donated a quilt/blanket. Also, to the ladies that sewed on Linus labels and tied the fleece blankets on Saturday, September 30, 2023.

It was wonderful to see that our Linus Project was remembered during the COVID Period. We are able to donate 23 beautifully made blankets at this time. The contribution of time and material given is very much appreciated.

Please keep Project Linus in mind over the winter by working on a blanket for the next Linus Day in Spring 2024.

We enjoy this meaningful and worthwhile social time together, so please join us – everyone is welcome. Can't knit/crochet? We will teach you! Supplies are donated.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Barbara Hannon or Alma Dallas.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Safe Healthy New Year!

## Harvest Home Sunday

November 12



Please join the congregation to thank the Lord for the harvest blessings we received this year. As Harvest Home is a few weeks before Thanksgiving, we are asking the congregation to bring nonperishable food items that those in need can use for a Thanksgiving meal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sylvia Hansen.

### Suggested Thanksgiving Nonperishables:

- Stuffing
- Mashed Potato Mix
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,540.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

*Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).*

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda White".

Amanda White  
Director, Congregational Generosity



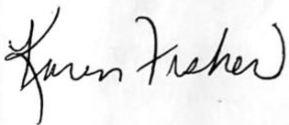
Dear Immanuel Church Members,

Thank you for your donation today to the Somerton Food Bank. We are so grateful for the delivery of 15-20 bags (so many that we lost count!) of food that you dropped off to us. The non-perishables you brought will be used promptly as we have a great need that continues in the community. The items that you donate are usually items that are not on the usual order sheet, and they bring variety to our client's weekly diet. Your donation brightens our day!

We at the food bank are motivated by these words from Matthew 25:35: <sup>35</sup> I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink.

Your help is a blessing to us as we achieve our mission in Northeast Philadelphia. We appreciate your caring and thank you for assisting us as we help for the people in the Somerton area.

Sincerely,



Karen Fisher  
Somerton Interfaith Food Bank




**Coming Advent 2023....**  
**ELCA Good Gifts**

*Details to come in the  
December newsletter.*



The Evangelism Team is planning a **Global Taste of Christmas** event for Saturday, December 2, from 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM. Doors will open at 2:00 PM. Information will be available in upcoming e-news emails and our websites. This event will require an RSVP.

# NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Remember to <i>fall back</i> on November 5. Turn your clocks back one hour!</b></p> 			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School
<p><b>5</b> <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i></p> <p><b>All Saints/Memorial Sunday</b></p> <p>10:15 AM Combined Service <i>With Holy Communion</i></p>	<b>6</b>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Election Day</b></p> <p>1:30 PM Member Care Team</p> <p>7:00 PM Evangelism Team</p>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Immanuel German School</p> <p>Girl Scouts' Sleepover</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Harvest Home Sunday</b></p> <p>10:15 AM Combined Service</p>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Congregation Council	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Immanuel German School</p> <p>12:30 PM Bingo</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>10:15 AM Combined Service</p>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> <i>Church office closed</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Church office closed</i>	<b>25</b>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>10:15 AM Combined Service</p>	<b>27</b>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>12:30 PM Out to Lunch</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance Team</p>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b></p> <p><b>12/2 Christmas Around the World</b></p> <p><b>12/10 Congregation Advent Luncheon</b></p>	



To stay updated on the happenings at Immanuel, make sure to read your weekly e-news.

**“What’s New at Immanuel” arrives in your email inbox every Friday (around noon.)**

Don’t get the e-news, but wish you did?  
Contact our Editor, Carrie Cook