

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



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Ministers: *Members and Friends of the Congregation*

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

CHRISTMAS 2020 / JANUARY 2021

From Pastor Hahn

My dear church family:

In the movie, “Saving Private Ryan,” there is a scene where one young soldier complains to another about the mission they are on because it makes no sense to him. The other soldier is not interested and cuts the conversation off with this remark: “Don’t tell me. Tell the captain. In the military gripes go up!” And then, to underscore his point, he concludes with a rather salty insult.

“Gripes go up.” The same principle can be found in the Bible which uses the word “lament.” In the book of Psalms, there are even specific psalms explicitly designated as “psalms of lament” in which individuals direct their lament to God.

The well-known Old Testament scholar and theologian, Walter Brueggemann, recently published a small but powerful volume of “biblical reflections in a time of loss, grief, and anxiety” entitled “Virus as a Summons to Faith.” His wise and insightful reflections taught me to update a piece of advice my mother had passed on to me.

“If you are feeling down or bad,” my mom had advised me, “look to the people who are worse off than you and you will feel better instantly.” She, who had barely survived the deprivations and violence of World War II spoke from experience. By looking to folks who were worse off than her, she had learned to develop contentment, gratitude, and a charitable spirit.

What my mother never did, though, was to lament, to groan, to complain or gripe to God. At least, she never did it publicly or in front of her

children. I guess that those who taught her the faith did not tell her that it was okay, even biblical.

There has been plenty of complaining, griping, finger-pointing, and worse during the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world. But has there been genuine lament? And enough of it? Have people taken their fears, anxiety, frustration, anger, grief and more to God?

Brueggemann, in his book, describes our situation this way: “We are now, amid the virus, in a matrix of groan about loss, fear, and death. We must wait amid that matrix of groan to receive what new good futures God may now give to us.”

And that brings us precisely to Christmas, the arrival of the Prince of Peace in our world and in our hearts. Good news for all people. Good news for you and me! A new good future is about to begin. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.



From Pastor and Lyn Hahn and the Immanuel staff, Diane Burgess (secretary), Mary and Ed Borneo (sextons).

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24

Online and phone:

1:00 PM English
3:00 PM German
5:00 PM English
7:00 PM German

Drive-in

5:00 PM English
7:00 PM German

Sunday, December 27

Online and phone:

9:30 AM English
11:00 AM German
6:30 PM Evening



If you plan to attend any of the Christmas Eve drive-in services, please leave a message at 215.464-1540 or email Office@ImmanuelPhilly.org by noon, Wednesday, December 23.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of **Andrew Weyershaeuser** who passed away on December 2 at the age of 88. Services and interment were private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project. Thank you for keeping the Weyershaeuser family and friends in your prayers.



We extend our Christian Sympathy to Ed and Mary Borneo and their extended family as they are mourning the loss of **Ed and Mary's daughter-in-law, Susan**. Please keep Ed and Mary and their extended family in your prayers. (Ed and Mary have been serving our congregation as sextons for nearly 15 years.)

THANK YOU

Thanks to the **Wetzel Funeral Home** for their kind donation of 2021 calendars to our church – they were given out at the Christmas Drive through on December 5.

Thank You

For donating virtual poinsettias to benefit the ELCA World Hunger Response

Klaus and Ilse Abendroth in memory of Loved Ones.

Stewart and Christine Blankenhorn in memory of Loved Ones.

Roswitha Carle in memory of her Mother and Father.

Roswitha Carle in memory of her uncle and aunt, Eugene and Gertrude Walter.

David and Michele Cook in memory of their parents, Howard & Carolyn Daubert.

David and Michele Cook in memory of their parents, Everett and Florence Cook.

Paul and Alma Dallas in memory of parents, Paul and Mae Dallas.

Paul and Alma Dallas in memory of parents, Paul and Alma Kallus.

Paul and Alma Dallas in memory of family in Germany.

William Davenport in memory of Blondina Molzan.

William Davenport in memory of Claudious Charles Davenport.

William Davenport in memory of Wilhelmina Davenport.

Donna Day in memory of her parents, Catherine and Daniel Day.

Donna Day in memory of her brother, Daniel W. Day.

Matt and Christina DeMarco in memory of their grandparents.

Judy Friedman in memory of her husband, Daniel Friedman.

Pastor and Lyn Hahn in honor of our Immanuel Church Family and staff.

Pastor and Lyn Hahn in memory of Loved Ones.

Barbara Hannon in memory of Loved Ones.

George C. Herrmann in memory of his grandmother, Anna Pahls Herrmann.

George C. Herrmann in memory of his parents, George and Edith Herrmann.

George C. Herrmann in memory of his aunt and uncle, William & Janet Herrmann.

Kathleen Johnson in memory of Gustav and Kathrin Wollmann.

Kathleen Johnson in memory of Charles and Helen Bay.

Kathleen Johnson in memory of Catherine and Harry Johnson.

Kathleen Johnson in memory of Mildred, John and Bill Johnson.

Kathleen Johnson in memory of Lillian and Louis Watson.

Frida Kehrer in memory of her husband, Willi Kehrer.

Margot Purucker in memory of her husband, Willy Purucker.

Theophil and Rosina Sawadski in memory of Loved Ones.

Meta Schemaitat and Family in memory of her husband and Loved Ones.

Victor and Annie Werbitzky in memory of their mother, Elsie Jakushenko.

Victor and Annie Werbitzky in memory of Karl Kumpfert.



Did You Know?

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a difference. As a partner of churches, social ministry organizations and development and advocacy organizations, ELCA World Hunger helps reach communities most in need throughout the world. Our relationships in the U.S. and around the world create an infrastructure that allows us to be very cost efficient and effective — less than 10 cents of every dollar is used for program administration and fundraising.

ANNUAL REPORTS



Please have all Annual Reports for the Congregational Meeting to Diane in the church office **no later than January 22, 2021.**

Word documents are the preferred format. You can email them to the church: office@immanuelphilly.org

We are never alone

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The room was spare and dimly lit. We sat on folding chairs in a circle—young Honduran women and some of us from the ELCA. We had come to Honduras to observe the work of AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with

Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). This is the ELCA's strategy to help youth who have been forced to flee their home countries because of violence, abuse, extortion by gangs and extreme poverty. *Amparo* is the Spanish word for shelter or refuge.

In this case, AMMPARO partnered with the Lutheran World Federation and the Mennonites to resettle returned migrants—those who had tried to seek asylum in the United States but had failed or had been denied and deported back to Honduras.

One by one they told us their stories of fear and desperation. Not a one undertook the long and dangerous trek north on a whim. They told us about the abuse they had suffered, about family members who had been killed by gangs, about the inability to make a living because of the extortion by organized crime. They talked about the bitter sadness of leaving home and family, and the uncertainty of the future.

I remember one young woman in particular. She was pregnant when she tried to migrate to the United States. She had the baby somewhere along the way. She was far from home, mostly alone and desperately wanted her mother to be with her. None of this is what she had hoped for when she was growing up. Circumstances beyond her control had forced her into this new and strange existence. She and her baby were now back in Honduras—but not at home. Home was too dangerous.

Remember last Christmas? Remember all of the preparations, the travel to be with family? Remember the holy beauty of the Christmas Eve liturgy and receiving Christ's grace and forgiveness at his table? The shopping and Christmas caroling? The in-person gatherings? All that has changed.

The pandemic hasn't forced us from our homes but into our homes, sheltering in place, isolated. Not together, but physically distanced. Not gathered with family and friends, but forced apart because of the threat of infection. Forced by circumstances beyond our control into this strange existence. Oh, there will be Christmas carols piped into grocery stores and other essential services, but they will be painful reminders of how life used to be.

We are reminded of the experience of the exiles in Babylon: "By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captives asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land" (Psalm 137)?

I told the young Honduran woman about another young woman who was forced to leave home because of a government decree. She, too, was pregnant and made a long and difficult journey. She, too, was far from home and without her mother when the baby came. She had to find shelter wherever she could. This wasn't what she had hoped for when she was growing up. Circumstances beyond her control had forced her into this new existence.

That young woman was Mary, and the child was Jesus. Precisely in our distress, in our dislocation, the Lord shows up. Emmanuel—God with us—makes his home in the very places we find foreign or isolating. The young Honduran woman, and all of us, can find hope because of the birth of Mary's child. There is no God-forsaken place, and we are never alone— not in hospital rooms, or sheltering in place, or Zoom calls or on dangerous roads.

Many of us will not be physically home for Christmas, but we are truly home in Christ.

As seen in the Dec. 2020 issue of Living Lutheran

ELCA Good Gifts - Christmas 2020

December Social Ministry Focus
Ends January 6, 2021 (Epiphany Day)

We invite you to give a gift that will make a difference. There are old favorites and some new gifts. Mail your check, made out to Immanuel, to the church office. Mark check and envelope "Good Gifts". Or give online at www.ImmanuelPhilly.org. (Specify your gift.)



\$10 A backpack full of food - More than 30 million children in the US depend on federal school-meal programs to stay well-nourished and ready to learn. This gift helps children maintain the same level of nutrition over the weekend and when school is not in session.

\$10 Chicks - Help a family spread their wings. When chicks grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals — they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income.

\$10 Honeybees - Support farmers and healthy honeybee colonies with this buzz-worthy gift. Honeybees provide honey to eat, beeswax that allows a farmer to start a small business selling their products, and a boost to crop growth by pollinating plants everywhere they go.



\$10 Fruit tree seedlings - These low-maintenance trees are an investment in the community that can span generations, protecting the soil from erosion and providing nutritious fruit to children and adults alike.

\$10 Feed 10 people at a soup kitchen - A warm meal can go a long way. Your gifts help support soup kitchens across the country as they serve up meals to people in need.

\$25 One month nutrition for a child - Foods high in protein and vitamins help keep tummies full and immune systems strong. Your support shows children who have lost one or both parents that someone cares.

\$25 Personal protective equipment - Health care and other essential program staff on the front line of this pandemic are in dire need of personal protective equipment (PPE) as they put themselves at risk to serve others.

\$30 A piglet - This gift is a source of natural fertilizer that helps crops grow tall and strong, and can also be sold at the market for extra income when it's needed.



God is calling us into the world, together.
With generous, loving hands,
we can make a difference.
God's work. Our hands.



The Wonder of Christmas

Drive-Thru – December 5

This event was well received by our community and Church family. Forty-five cars came through the event holding anywhere from one to seven persons. Our prayers were answered when the rain stopped earlier than expected and the wind died down just before the event started. Several campus trees and bushes were decorated and there were several illuminated blow ups, which were all donated by our church members. There were actors who portrayed the Angel, Mary, Joseph, the Innkeeper, and shepherds. At the end was our first live Nativity.

Peaceable Kingdom brought several animals which were a big hit with our staff and the people who drove through.

A big thank you to everyone who donated decorations and their time. This event could not have happened without all the help that we received.

–The Christian Events Team



Offering Envelopes for 2021

Due to the “coronavirus assembly restrictions” your 2021 Offering Envelopes are being mailed to you. It is less expensive to mail the envelopes in three-month intervals than to mail the entire book.

Please note: If you want a donation credited to your 2020 Giving Statement (for income tax purposes), your donations must be received by December 31.

Celebrate Epiphany Day

Wednesday, Jan. 6,
12:00 noon & 7:00 PM



Those who read their Bible carefully know that an unnamed number of wise men (the “three” comes from the song and from extra-biblical tradition) visited the infant Jesus in a “house.” This was most likely two years after his birth. A special day (January 6), twelve days after Christmas has been set aside in the Christian calendar to celebrate this special event. Join us!



Celebrate the Baptism of our Lord

Sunday, January 10, 2021

The first Sunday after the end of the 12 Days of Christmas celebrates the baptism of Jesus by his cousin, John. It is a good day to celebrate our own baptism and reflect on its powerful implications for now and for eternity.

Bible Study Reboot

Starting Wednesday, January 20, 10:00 AM

Turn your New Year’s resolution to get closer to God into concrete actions by participating in the new Bible study that launches on January 20. No prior knowledge is required, just an open mind.

Please let the church office or Pastor Hahn know by January 18 if you would like to participate either by phone or computer.



The Immanuel Church Family is Making A Difference

Support for the Seafarers Ministry

Your adopting 82 “ditty bags,” generously participating in the gift basket emphasis, and with the support of a Thrivent action team grant, Immanuel’s financial and in-kind support for the Seafarers Ministry had a value of about \$1,500. Thank you very much!

Support for Food Banks

A generous amount of non-perishable groceries and \$121 were given by participants in the Wonder of Christmas event to help people in need in our area and beyond. Thank you!



Support for ELCA World Hunger

Your gifts for 35 virtual poinsettias (see page 3) provides \$350 of support for hunger relief. Thanks!

COVID-19 Relief for DELKINA Congregations

The congregation council voted to support struggling German-speaking congregations in the US and Canada with a \$2,000 gift which is half-a-tithe from a bequest given to Immanuel for ministry.

ELCA Mission Support

Immanuel continues to support the local, regional, national, and international work of our denomination (the ELCA) with a monthly gift.

ELCA Good Gifts

This year’s emphasis is off to a good start. You can participate until January 6. (More on page 4.)

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE: All Worship Services are remote and will be broadcast LIVE through ZOOM.</p> <p>Check your email or the announcements in your worship folder for instructions.</p>					<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Second Sunday of Christmas 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 1:30 PM Member Care Team (Remote) 7:00 PM Christian Events Team (Remote)</p>	<p>6 12 Noon and 7:00 PM Epiphany Worship (Remote)</p>	<p>7 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference (Remote)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)</p>
<p>10 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote) 10:00 AM: DELKINA Executive Committee (Remote)</p>
<p>17 Second Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote) Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>18 7:00 PM Congregation Council (Remote)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote)</p>	<p>21 9:30 AM Committee of Deans (Remote)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)</p>
<p>24 Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)</p>
<p>31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)</p>						