

DECEMBER 2020

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
*Connecting people with God and with other people
to make a difference!*
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Immanuel Newsletter GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

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Poinsettias

If you wish to donate one or more poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones or special people, please mail \$10 per poinsettia to the church office by December 13. (Mark your check accordingly.) Or give online at ImmanuelPhilly.org.



A list of donors and dedications will be published with the pastor's Christmas letter.

This year, all poinsettias will be virtual, and all donations will benefit the work of the Lutheran Hunger Appeal. Thank you!

CONNECTING WITH GOD

From Pastor Hahn

My dear Immanuel church family:

As a pastor, I have had my share of unusual circumstances.

For example, the **most unusual wedding** was on a boat in the Gulf of Mexico. Nice setting, but half of the wedding party, including the bride, got seasick. (You can imagine the rest....)

The **most unusual funeral** was when only the hearse with the urn and I arrived at the correct cemetery for the interment. All other attendees had gone to a different one. There was a schedule to keep and no time to wait, so the ceremony took place with me officiating and the driver of the hearse serving in the role of attendees.

The **most unusual baptism** happened on November 22, 2020, outdoors on the grounds of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Aidan Joseph Healy and Charles Eric Oswald were presented by their parents for baptism. And with Covid-19 as the backdrop, we had to find a way to do that with masks and social distancing.

Besides the baptismal font (bowl) having a leak and all the water leaking out (it got replaced in time), everything went well. I spoke the baptismal words from a distance. The parents and siblings of the infants took turns pouring the water on their heads. (Pictures and video are forthcoming.) It was actually quite awesome!



The **most unusual Christmas celebration** will be this Christmas. Like so many people who do not want to expose a family member (or themselves) to a health risk related to Covic-19, Lyn and I will not be with our family this year. (We will try to Zoom, however.) We prefer, as someone put it, to be “sad for a day or two, instead of sorry for a long time.”

As a church family, you and I will not be able to gather for indoor in-person worship. However, I will be offering **six opportunities for Christmas Eve worship**:

two each in German and in English online, plus one in German and one in English as a drive-in service (CDC guidelines permitting) where you stay in your car and listen to me on your car radio at FM 91.5. Trees on the campus will be decorated. I do hope you will participate in one of these services.



As you begin to make your Christmas gift list, please remember the work of your church with a special Christmas gift. The pandemic will end. There will be a new normal. We want our church and its ministries to be strong and ready. Your financial generosity will make that possible.

Blessings for your Advent journey and your Christmas celebration.

Pastor Hahn

Was War, Was Ist, Was Kommt

Ich bin seit kurzem 66. Genauso alt wurde meine Mutter. Stammend aus Eltern, die am Tod entlang lebten. Mutter Vollwaise, Vater Halbwaise, kriegsversehrt. Ich träumte als kleiner Mensch das Feuer, das er erlebt hatte, als seine Familie erstickte. Die Mutter sah die einzige Tochter, meine Schwester, auf dem Bahnhof mit einer Tomate in der Hand stehen, während ihr Flüchtlingszug losfuhr. Bis ein Russe ihr die Kleine durchs fliehende Fenster hereinreichte

Hineingeboren - ich - in einen langen europäischen Frieden, in volle Kühlschränke und Luxusreisen.

Was wollte ich jetzt meinem Vater erzählen? Reisebegrenzung, Kontaktbeschränkung, Familienstress und Pleiten wegen Corona. Er würde mich ansehen. Jahrgang 1913. Nicken. „Ja, ist nicht so leicht –“ würde er sagen. „Geht vorbei –“ würde er sagen. „1929 ging die halbe Welt pleite am 'Schwarzen Freitag'. Tausende haben sich damals das Leben genommen.“ „Nein, Jugend hatten wir nicht,“ würden beide Eltern sagen.

Nein, fraglos, es ist schwierig, was wir grad erleben. Es fordert den Wohlstand heraus, das Ererzte. Es stoppt die kulturelle Vielfalt, die sich so wunderbar ausbreiten konnte jenseits der Panzer und Bomben. Opernhäuser, soweit das Auge reicht. Frieden auf den Straßen.

Nur: ich mag meinen Eltern mit diesem Zustand nicht verzweifelt unter die Augen treten. Meine Eltern *sind überrollt worden* und mussten das halbe Leben drangeben nur um überhaupt zu atmen.



Ich konnte als Nachgeborener im fetten Europa mit euch zusammen schon von Anfang an Luft holen.

Ich kann mit euch das Ungefährte dieser Lage bedrohlich finden, aber *wir haben Wege* und Holzwege da hindurch. Es ist absehbar, auch wenn Leitende jetzt schlingern.

Schwerer wiegt vielleicht, wie die kleinen und mittleren Freiberuflichen dastehen nach all dem. Ob auch sie bald gefressen werden von den weltumspannenden Black Friday-Konzernen, die keine Steuern zahlen. Die Regierende so vor sich hertreiben, dass die mit chinesischer Diktatur flirten. Da hab ich echte Sorge.

In alldem: Ich weiß es auch nicht besser. Ich halte die Zeiten meiner Eltern an meine und unsere. Es entspannt mich dies zu tun. Seltsam. Das Fette der letzten Jahre ist nicht allein der Maßstab. Es gibt keine Sicherheit, für gar nichts. Außer man liebt. Dieser Zustand ist objektiv der unsicherste, aber der einzige, der mich und dich am Leben hält.



„Ich sehe eine andere Welt“, sagt im Traum der Gottessohn den hellsichtig Verrückten, und *sie* werden verstehen. Es wird euch reichen, wenn ein paar anständige Hanseln das Land leidlich verwälten, ohne es auszurauben. Und ihr werdet mich in diesem Moment kurz am Horizont heraufkommen sehen.

Das nennt gern Advent. Aber das Beste kommt erst noch

Auszüge aus einer Adventsmeditation von Thomas Hirsch-Hüffel bei evangelisch.de.



Mid-week Quiet Time During Advent

Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16 & 23
12:00 noon and 7:00 PM

Are you looking for a break from our fast-paced world? Join us for some quiet time to reflect on the themes of Advent: hope, peace, love, and joy. This time will be a period of contemplation, reflection and inspiration.

If you would like to attend, please inform the church office by phone or email and you will receive the ID# to connect with us on Zoom.

phone: 215-464-1540 -- email: office@ImmanuelPhily.org

DECEMBER REMOTE-WORSHIP SCHEDULE (Online and Phone only)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 6, 13, 20 and 27

(Please note the change in TIME.

We are back to our regular
schedule)

9:30 AM English

11:00 AM German

6:30 PM Evening

CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY, DEC. 24

Online and phone:

1:00 PM English

3:00 PM German

5:00 PM English

7:00 PM German

Drive-in (unless prohibited by
CDC guidelines)

5:00 PM English

7:00 PM German

Christmas Cards

In previous years, we encouraged members and friends of Immanuel who would see and greet each other during seasonal events on the Immanuel campus NOT to write separate Christmas cards but to join a shared greeting via the newsletter. Postage money saved went to Lutheran Hunger Relief.

This year, with limits on social interaction, we DO encourage you to reach out to each other—and especially to our home-bound members and friends as well as those on the prayer list—with a Christmas greeting. It will brighten their day! (To support World Hunger donate a poinsettia!)

OUTDOOR BAPTISMS ON NOVEMBER 22

Congratulations to the Oswald and Healy families on the baptism of **Aidan Joseph Healy** and **Charles Eric Oswald**. Aidan Joseph, son of Donna and Stephen Healy, was born on Valentine's Day (2/14/2020) and he weighed 9 lbs. His older siblings are Shane, Erin and Tara. His godparents are Maureen and Christopher Oswald. Charles Eric is the son of Maureen and Christopher Oswald. he was born on March 3, 2020, and he weighed 10.3 pounds! His older siblings are Christian and Chelsea. His godparents are Donna and Stephen Healy. Ellen and Joe Ragan are their proud grandparents. Please keep these two new brothers in Christ in your prayers.



Aidan and his mom are on the left in the picture.
Charles and his mom are on the right

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020
(Rain, Snow or Shine)
5:00 TO 7:00 PM**

Drive-Thru the Wonders of Christmas



You are cordially invited to Immanuel Lutheran Church's first drive-thru Christmas Event – The Wonders of Christmas. The Immanuel campus will take on the look of a Christmas Wonderland with lights and Christmas décor. There will be stations for interactive play and the story of Christmas. Everyone will remain in their car. The event will be highlighted by a live nativity display at the end of the drive-thru!

There is no charge for this event. However, we are requesting the donation of non-perishable food items for the local food bank. In order to avoid traffic congestion on Worthington Road, this will be a timed event. Registration is **required**. Your email is necessary so that we can provide a ticket for your car. It would be helpful for us to know how many adults and children will be in your car. We are looking forward to a fun and educational event for adults and children.

Mark your calendar – Saturday, December 5, 2020, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044fa9ad28a7fc1-thewonder>

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



We extend our Christian Sympathy to Dorothy Zukowski and her extended family on the recent death of her brother, **Henry Fredericks**. Please keep Dorothy (Dot) and the family and friends of Henry Fredericks in your prayers.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Journey of Discovery Report

WE ARE THE SAME ANIMAL



RACISM IS STUPID

Throughout history, this or that group, clan, or tribe has claimed superiority over others. This is far from an American issue, nor is it exclusively a black and white issue. Focusing on the United States, because that's where we all live, throughout our history we have seen various groups disdained and discriminated against:

"The refugees seeking haven in America were poor and disease-ridden. They threatened to take jobs away from Americans and strain welfare budgets. They practiced an alien religion and pledged allegiance to a foreign leader. They were bringing with them crime. They were accused of being rapists. And worst of all, these undesirables were Irish."

<https://www.history.com/news/when-america-despised-the-irish-the-19th-centurys-refugee-crisis>

The *Irish*? Yes, the Irish, and there was even a time when the GERMANS were seen as less than desirable. *Das darf nicht wahr sein!* Indeed, many of us like to think of our country as a melting pot, a melting pot wherein many of the old animosities and prejudices have been cooked out, evaporated through the process of assimilation if not smelted in the melting pot. Maybe....

Our **Journey of Discovery** dealt with groups that have not fared so well on these shores: Native Americans, African Americans, and other People of Color. How can it be possible, that over 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Blacks are still not fully equal? How could the founding fathers who wrote these stirring words

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

and also decree that slaves were to count as 3/5 of a person? The concept *more or less equal* is an oxymoron. Equal = equal.

Okay, thanks for the history lesson. I'm not a racist. Indeed, that's the point, isn't it? How is it possible that in terms of housing, economics, educational opportunities, etc. such enormous disparities still exist? Our discussion may have started after the killing of George Floyd but we focused entirely on understanding and trying to make a difference.

Submitted by Del Hausman

THANKS FOR YEARS OF GARDENING SERVICE



At 88, **Johann Scholtz** is ready to pass his “lucky rake” to the next generation.

Who is ready and willing to take over his gardening ministry at Immanuel?

Let the church office know.

(We trust that Johann will be willing to provide guidance and moral support.)

Thanks, Johann, for your many years of service. *Danke!*

ELCA GOOD GIFTS– CHRISTMAS 2020

Again, this year, 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.)**



Stock a backpack with food: \$10

Soap and sanitation supplies for households, schools, clinics: \$25

Personal protective equipment: face masks, gloves, disinfectant for healthcare workers: \$25

Piglet: \$30



Honeybees: \$10

Chicks: \$10

Feed 10 people at a soup kitchen: \$20

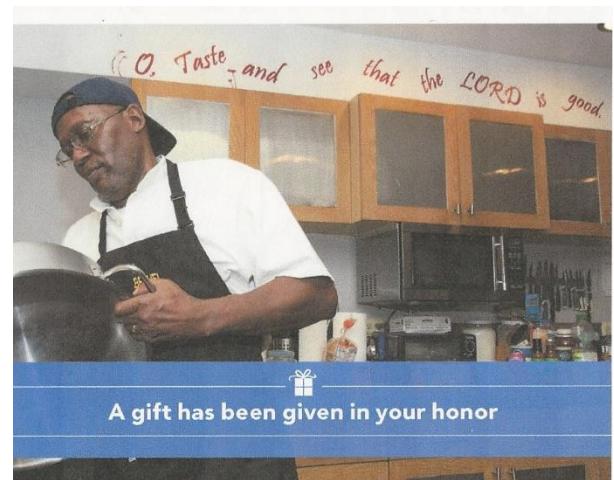
Nutrition for a child (one month): \$25

Fruit-tree seedling: \$10

God is calling us into the world, together.

With generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

God’s work. Our hands.



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PLEASE NOTE: All Worship Services are remote and will be broadcast LIVE through ZOOM, Check your email or the announcements in your worship folder for instructions.		1 1:30 PM Member Care Team (Remote) 7:00 PM Christian Events Team (Remote)	2 10 AM Bible study (remote) 12:00 noon & 7:00 PM Advent Worship (Remote)	3	4	5 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote) 5:00 PM The Wonders of Christmas (drive-thru)
6 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 3:00 PM German Christmas Party (Remote) 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)	7	8 9:30 AM Committee of Deans (Remote)	9 10 AM Bible study (remote) 12:00 noon & 7:00 PM Advent Worship (Remote)	10 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference (Remote)	11	12 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote) 10:00 AM DELKINA Executive Committee (Remote)
13 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 3:00 PM Congregational Christmas Party (Remote) 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)	14 Newsletter Deadline	15	16 10 AM Bible study (remote) 12:00 noon & 7:00 PM Advent Worship (Remote)	17	18	19 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
20 4th Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 3:00 PM Christmas Carols and Such (Remote) 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)	21 7:00 PM Congregation Council (remote)	22	23 12:00 noon & 7:00 PM Advent Worship (Remote)	24 Christmas Eve 1:00 PM English 3:00 PM German 5:00 PM English 7:00 PM German (See page 4)	25 Christmas Day	26
27 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service	28	29	30	31		
			Church office closed!			