

Immanuel Newsletter

GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

OCTOBER 2021

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
*Connecting people with God and
with other people to make a difference!*
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Worship Opportunities in October

DRIVE-IN Traditional Worship

with Holy Communion

Every Sunday at 10:15 AM (Bilingual)

Contemporary Worship

October 10 & 24 at 6:30 PM

(English, Fellowship Hall)

Traditional Online Worship

Every Sunday at 9:19 AM in English

Every Sunday at 11:11 AM in German

Sunday, October 31

Reformation Day
Wear Red!

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Online Oktoberfest

Friday, October 1, 7:30 PM

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CONNECTING WITH GOD

FROM Pastor Hahn

My dear Immanuel church family,

I would like to share with you some good news and some important information. First, I would like to look back over the past few weeks and then forward to the next month.



LOOKING BACK

First, I have to say “**thank you**” for some of the awesome things you did over the past few weeks:

- (1) You have been so faithful in **mailing your weekly offerings** to the church office, giving online, and bringing them with you to in-person services that all ministry needs in August were met.
- (2) You supported **the Seafarer’s emphasis** with gifts in addition to your weekly offering. Your second-mile gifts and a “community action grant” from Thrivent will make available **125 “ditty bags”** as gifts to international sailors who will be stuck in Philadelphia harbor at Christmas.
- (3) You supported the **food drive on “God’s Work. Our Hands. Day”** on September 11 on the Immanuel campus with in-kind gifts. On that day and the next, you donated food and pledged or gave funds with which we purchased food. A total of **1,260 lbs. of food** were donated to the food bank.
- (4) The Christian Events Team continued its **evangelism efforts** on behalf of our congregation by offering two movie nights and the recent flea market. A big “thank you” to the team and to all who helped.
- (5) You have remained faithful in your **worship participation** of our four worship services. The number of online or telephone participants coupled with the number of in-person participants has remained steady. Interestingly, our drive-in outdoor services have had, on average, three times as many

participants as our services inside the church building.

(6) The past few weeks were **a season of grief** for our church family as we released into God’s eternal care several beloved members. I am grateful for the prayers you have offered for those left behind and your acts of Christian caring.

LOOKING FORWARD

- (1) We will continue to **support the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS.org)**, especially as they assist the integration of our Afghan allies who were rescued and brought to the United States as refugees. Your future gifts (memo: refugee aid) will help meet needs beyond the **\$1,060** already given for this great need.
- (2) Since the terrible weather affected our area – including Lutheran congregations – not too long ago, a number of members and friends, including vendors at the flea market, have begun giving extra gifts (**\$950 so far**) for **Lutheran Disaster Response**. We continue to welcome additional gifts for this.



- (3) The beautiful September weather has made our **drive-in outdoor services at 10:15 AM** (bilingual and always with Holy Communion) a delight. I hope that the weather in October will bless us just as much. With the more dangerous Delta variant of COVID gaining steam, and other even more dangerous variants being detected, we want everyone to be safe. Please follow mask and distancing protocols. Thank you!
 - (4) This year, for a change, we can celebrate **Reformation Day on Sunday, October 31st** – the original date of Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses, and not, as is customary, on the Sunday closest to the 31st. Please support this festival and the “Trunk or Treat” outreach event held the day before.
- God’s Peace, *Pastor Hahn*

Wer hätte das gedacht?

Thorsten Benkel und Matthias Meitzler haben über 500 Friedhöfe im deutschsprachigen Raum besucht – und die beiden Soziologen staunen noch immer über ergreifende, humorvolle, überraschende und rätselhafte Gräber und Inschriften.

Die eindrucksvollsten von nahezu 30.000 Fotos präsentieren sie in ihrem Buch. Sie zeigen, wie Menschen mit dem Verlust umgehen (»Lach doch mal«), wie Beziehungsverhältnisse reflektiert werden (»Mit dir zu leben war nicht leicht, doch ohne dich ist's noch viel schwerer«), was den Verstorbenen wichtig war (»Nicht das Licht auslöschen«), wie ihre Hobbys ihr Lebensende prägten (»Dein letztes Match hast du verloren«), welche Charakterzüge sie hatten (»Es Lebbe geht weiter«) und welche Verdienste ihnen zugeschrieben werden (»Er war guter Eltern Sohn«).

Und wer würde mit Skiern, Raumschiffen, Skateboards, Handys, Panzern, Aschenbechern, Computermäusen und Comicfiguren als Grabsteinmotive rechnen?

Benkel und Meitzler zeigen: Der »Totenacker« ist von der Individualisierung eingeholt worden. Manche Lebensbilanz fällt ernüchternd aus (»Alles Scheiße«), manche ist ironisch (»Nur tiefergelegt«), mancher Nachruf bringt den Betrachter ins Grübeln (»Der Tag ist gerettet«), und auch die Gewissheit, dass es kein Wiedersehen gibt (»Das war alles«), ist kein seltenes Bekenntnis mehr.

Was aber will die Grabinschrift »Lasst uns die nächste Revolution in einem August beginnen« besagen?

I did not see this coming!

Two German sociologists visited over 500 cemeteries in the German-speaking regions of Europe. They were amazed to find many moving, humorous, surprising, and mysterious graves and inscriptions.



*Ungewöhnliche Grabsteine –
Eine Reise über die Friedhöfe von heute*

They took almost 30,000 pictures. The most impressive of those made it into their book, the title of which is loosely translated as: "Forgive me for not getting up. – Unusual gravestones. A journey across the cemeteries of today."

The authors show how people deal with loss ("Try to smile!"), how people reflect on their relationships with the deceased ("living with you was not easy, but living without you is much harder"), what was important to the deceased person ("don't turn off the light"), how hobbies impacted the end of life ("you lost your last match"), what can be gleaned about personal attitudes ("life goes on"), and how something positive can be said ("he was the son of good parents").

They show what variety of images made it onto gravestones: skies, spaceships, skateboards, cell phones, tanks, ashtrays, a computer mouse, and comic book characters.



The authors reveal how "the field of the dead" has been captured by individualism. People do their own thing now. One sums up life: "pile of horse sh@%". There is irony: "moved to a lower level." This one makes you think: "the day is saved". Another, quite frequent, inscription conveys the certainty that there is nothing more: "That was all."

But what does this mean: "Let's start the next revolution in August?"

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Ongoing Events

“Secrets of Our Faith”

Book Discussion Group

Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 PM

Contact person: Jim Clements. 215-938-1852 or Jim_Clements@comcast.net

Conversations on “Christ in our Home”

Fridays at 2:00 PM

Conversations about daily devotions. Online. Fridays from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Contact person: Pastor Hahn. 215-464-1540 or PastorHahnLC@gmail.com.

Address Change

Edith Toth
376 Fairhill Avenue
Langhorne, PA 19047

Mark Your Calendar

Christmas Drive Thru

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 5, 2021. Immanuel is holding its second annual Christmas Drive Thru on our campus from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This event was enjoyed by all who came and volunteered last year. The highlight will again be the live Nativity. Many compliments were conveyed to us regarding how beautiful and festive it was. You will need to reserve a time slot to attend. More details to come.

To make this event a success, we will need lots of volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact Marion Morris or Christine Blankenhorn. We could use help for set up or clean up or during the event. There will be set up in the days before the event so there are lots of opportunities for your participation. If anyone has Christmas lights or outside décor they would like to donate or lend to this event, we would be happy to provide pick-up and delivery.

Condolences



We extend our Christian sympathy to the **family and friends of Bill Heilemann** who passed away on August 29 at the age of 88. Services were private. Memorials in his name may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Thank you for keeping Bill's family and friends in your prayers.



We also extend our Christian sympathy to **the family and friends of Oda Wendt** who passed away on September 5 at the age of 96. A Memorial tribute service was held on September 18 at Delaware Valley Cremation Center with Pastor Hahn officiating. Thank you for keeping Oda's family and friends in your prayers.

Trunk Or Treat



It's that time of year! Immanuel is once again having Trunk or Treat. It will be held on Saturday, October 30 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM on our campus.

Members of the community are invited as well as our church family. All children in costume will be able to go to decorated cars and receive lots of treats. This event has been a huge success in the past and is enjoyed by all who attend. It's fun to see how creative everyone is while decorating their trunks. Some of our participants even dress in costumes. No reservation is required, just show up with children. Obviously, this is an outside event. Due to current medical guidelines, the church building will be closed and we will not be providing food. There is no rain date. We are requesting a donation of a non-perishable food item for the local food bank.

If you would like to participate by decorating your car, we would love to have you. All you need to do is make your trunk look Halloween ready and be at campus by 3:00 PM for set up. Immanuel will be providing the candy, purchased with a Thrivent Community Action Grant. Please call Marion Morris or Christine Blankenhorn at to let us know you would like to join us.



Holy Grounds

Outdoor Fellowship and Treats
Tuesday, October 5, 10:00 AM



You are invited to a good time of catching up with others from the Immanuel family with coffee and treats. Enjoy gathering with old and new friends at the bell tower on the Immanuel campus.

Masks are not required but encouraged when not eating or drinking. Please observe a safe distance of six feet to others not from your household. We want everyone to be safe.

Online Oktoberfest

Friday, October 1, 7:30 PM
Back by Popular Demand

- ✓ Enjoy listening to and learning some of the famous Oktoberfest songs.
- ✓ Go behind the scenes of the original Oktoberfest and discover some hidden secrets and novel facts.
- ✓ Watch the live presentations of our beer-tasters. (Contact Pastor Hahn if you would like to be a taster.)
- ✓ Have a good time!
- ✓ Invite a friend or neighbor.
- ✓ Watch the weekly e-newsletter for logon information or contact the church office.



We Welcome New Members

On Sunday, September 26 at the drive-in outdoor service at 10:15 AM, the Immanuel church family welcomed Ted and Joan Schmidt as new partners in ministry and mission. Welcome, Ted and Joan!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Register
[here](#)



A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed An online benefit for ELCA World Hunger

When: Thursday, October 14, 7:30 PM Central time
Where: Zoom webinar

You're invited to join me and [Rick Steves](#), guidebook author and travel TV host, as we celebrate World Food Day!

This online benefit for [ELCA World Hunger](#) will feature interviews hosted by my friend, Rick, with people on the ground who are doing the dynamic work of fighting hunger around the world. Special guests include the Rev. David Beckmann, who is being honored for his lifelong service to end hunger; the Rev. Rebel Hurd; Willie and Anne Langdji; and the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla. There will also be special performances by Rachel Kurtz, Peter Mayer and the St. Olaf Choir. As a vital supporter of the church, we would love for you to join us as we hear compelling stories, listen to wonderful music and gather in fellowship to invest in this life-giving work.

As a church, we remain focused on supporting our neighbors near and far as the pandemic continues disrupting and impacting lives. At this event, you will learn about the ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. No one is better positioned and more experienced than the church in addressing hunger — both immediate needs and root solutions. We are ready, able, effective and efficient.

Together, we are a people of hope. I look forward to seeing you there!
In Christ, *The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop*

Thank You

... to the Christian Events Team for hosting two "**Movie under the Stars**"

events. A good crowd of members and neighbors enjoyed these special events.



... to Dave Brabazon (left) and Matt DeMarco who recently teamed up to clear out weeds and overgrown bushes from the air conditioning cages in the back of the church building. Pastor Hahn assisted.



Thank You for Supporting the Seafarers Emphasis



Your financial gifts and a Community Action Grant from Thrivent Financial make it possible to brighten this coming Christmas

for **125** international sailors stuck in Philadelphia harbor during the holidays with **“ditty bags.”** (One “ditty bag” could be “adopted” for \$10.)

Thank You for Supporting the Immanuel Community Flea Market

A sunny Saturday on September 18 allowed for a steady stream of visitors from 9:30 AM until 1:00 PM. Even though some of us may have had a bit too much sun, we enjoyed meeting new people, reconnecting with friends, selling “treasures” and witnessing the support of Lutheran Disaster Response (see below) and the St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church **Food Pantry (155 items and \$20)**. Check out the pictures that were uploaded to the Immanuel Facebook page.

Thank You for Supporting Lutheran Disaster Response

It is usually done quietly and does not make the headlines very often, but Lutheran Disaster Response is often the first to arrive on the scene of a disaster and the last to leave. Plus, 100% of your donations assist victims of disasters like the recent Hurricane Ida. **So far, \$750** have been given to this worthy cause by members and friends of Immanuel; **also \$200** from vendors at the flea market who had been invited to donate \$10 for this as a participation donation.

Thank You for Supporting “God’s Work. Our Hands. Day”

On Saturday, September 11, members and friends of the Immanuel Church family donated grocery items during the drive-thru food emphasis and pledged funds over the telephone and the internet for additional food purchases. As a result of your generosity, **1,260 pounds of food** were given to a local food bank to assist neighbors in need. That was awesome!



Keep Supporting our Afghan Allies!

Thank you for your gifts of **\$1,209.65 so far** to support the integration of our Afghan allies who are coming as refugees into the United States because they fear for their lives in their home country after assisting the United States military.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS.org) continues to provide aid. The need continues to be great as many refugees arrive only with their clothes and few possessions.

Please send offerings you wish to make for this cause, in addition to your weekly support, to Immanuel. Make checks out to Immanuel, memo: refugee aid, or give online, purpose: refugee aid. Thank you!

Immanuel Church needs your help in ensuring its future ministry. Please include the church in your will. You may want to at least tithe (give 10%) of your estate to the Lord. Remember to include the church’s name and address along with the amount of your bequest. Should you wish, Pastor Hahn will provide you with the name of a caring and capable lawyer who can assist you.

OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE: Worship Services in black ink and <i>most</i> Meetings are remote and will be held/broadcast LIVE through ZOOM. (Online and telephone) DRIVE-IN Services include Holy Communion and are in red</p>					<p>1 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home 7:30 PM Online Oktoberfest</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM Immanuel German School</p>
<p>3 19th Sunday After Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM DRIVE-IN Bilingual Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service</p>		<p>5 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 1:30 PM Member Care Team 7:00 PM Christian Events Team</p>	<p>6 7:00 PM Book Discussion</p>	<p>7 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference</p>	<p>8 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home</p>	<p>9 9:30 AM Immanuel German School</p>
<p>10 20th Sunday After Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM DRIVE-IN Bilingual Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service 6:30 PM English Communion Service NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>				<p>14 9:30 AM Deans Meeting 7:30 PM <i>Until All Are Fed</i> Webinar</p>	<p>15 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home</p>	<p>16 9:30 AM Immanuel German School</p>
<p>17 21st Sunday After Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM DRIVE-IN Bilingual Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service</p>	<p>18 7:00 PM Congregation Council (remote)</p>		<p>20 7:00 PM Book Discussion</p>		<p>22 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home</p>	<p>23 9:30 AM Immanuel German School</p>
<p>24 22nd Sunday After Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM DRIVE-IN Bilingual Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service 6:30 PM English Communion Service</p>		<p>26 7:00 PM Finance Team Meeting (remote)</p>	<p>27 7:00 PM Book Discussion</p>		<p>29 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home</p>	<p>30 9:30 AM Immanuel German School 3:30 PM Trunk or Treat</p>
<p>31 Reformation Day Wear Red 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM DRIVE-IN German Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Food drop offs can be made Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Please call ahead.) Check your email for ZOOM instructions.</p>			