

# APRIL 2017

## IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

14100 WORTHINGTON ROAD

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19116

Phone: 215-464-1540

[www.immanuelphilly.org](http://www.immanuelphilly.org)

## Immanuel GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

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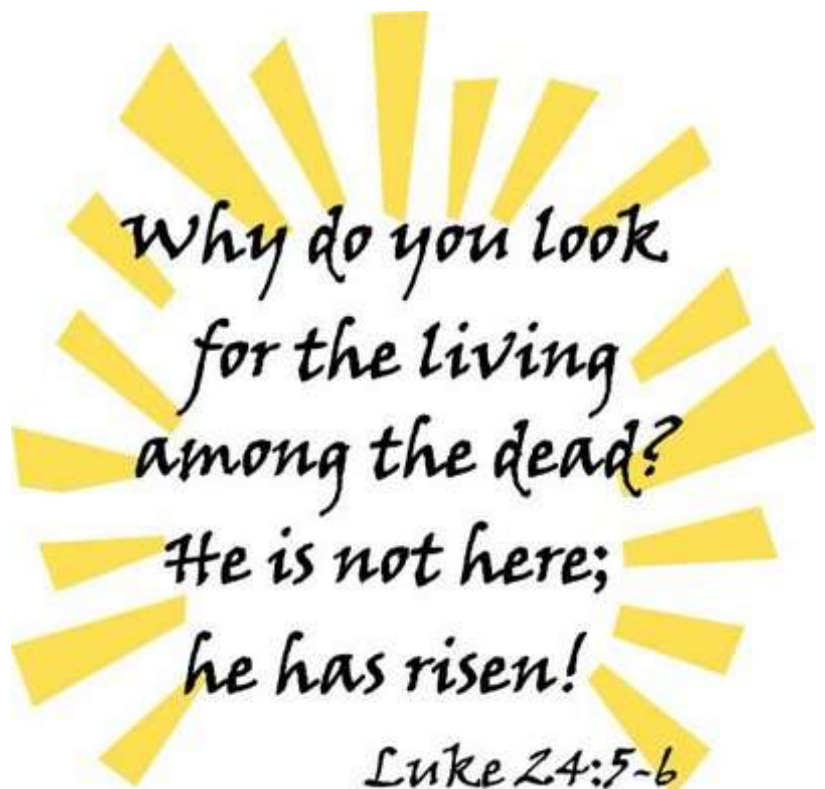
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# IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

## Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Facebook: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Philadelphia

Ministers:	Members and Friends of the Congregation		
Pastor:	Rev. Norbert F. Hahn, Ph.D.	215-464-1540	<a href="mailto:PastorHahnILC@gmail.com">PastorHahnILC@gmail.com</a>
Music Director:	James M. Clements, Ed.D.	215-938-1852	
Secretary:	Diane Burgess	215-464-1540	<a href="mailto:office@immanuelphilly.org">office@immanuelphilly.org</a>
Council President:	Stewart Blankenhorn	215-947-5079	

## CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING TIMES, LEADERS

Choir	TBA		Dr. James M. Clements
Church Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	7:00 PM	Stewart Blankenhorn
Christian Education Team	1 <sup>ST</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	Eileen Szentjobi
Frauenverein	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	11:30 AM	Marianne Haug
German Circle/Deutscher Kreis	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	7:00 PM	Ruth Muggler
Bible Study	Wednesdays	10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	Pastor Hahn
Girl Scouts	Wednesdays	7:00 PM	Nancy Smith
Handbell Choir	TBA		Dr. James M. Clements
Immanuel German School	Saturdays	9:30 AM	Dr. Del Hausman
Ladies' Guild	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:30 PM	Barbara Hannon
Sunday School	Sundays	9:30 AM	Eileen Szentjobi
Women's Book Club	TBA		Judy Friedman
Youth Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	11:00 AM	Chris Blankenhorn and Eileen Szentjobi

## NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL STAFF

Diane Burgess

David W. Cook

Pastor Norbert F. Hahn

Marianne Haug

Writing an article or just making a comment, we want to hear what you have to say.

Send articles, comments and questions to: [IELC.newsletter@comcast.net](mailto:IELC.newsletter@comcast.net)

# CONNECTING WITH GOD

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## From Pastor Hahn

**Quick**, when you hear “Easter,” what do you think of? What picture forms in your mind? What do you taste in your mouth? What emotions and memories are evoked inside of you? What people do you think of?

**Easter**, just like Christmas, is a mixed bag. It is a high holiday (holy day) on the Christian calendar, but also a big shopping and fun day in our culture. On the one hand, there is the resurrection from the dead of Jesus; his victory over sin, death, and the devil and all the good news that implies for us. On the other hand, there is some sort of bunny that got smuggled into the holiday by, would you believe it, German Lutheran immigrants to the United States (According to Time magazine online).

**The empty tomb** of the Christian Easter story competes with the empty, yet-to-be-filled baskets or buckets of children yearning for tasty Easter eggs. Eggs and bunnies, some sources say, were pagan symbols of fertility and associated with the Eostre, a pagan goddess of fertility. Fertility, new life, resurrection; it is easy to make those connections.

**For some boys and girls**, especially those hailing from the Southern United States, Easter is associated with a new set of clothes. For a number of folk, Easter means family reunions or at least a large family get together. For me, during my childhood and teen years, Easter always meant visiting one of my beloved aunts who all knew how to throw a great party and spoil us children.

**Spiritually speaking**, Easter is a bit more difficult than Christmas. On Christmas, everyone gets something. Where the means are available, children and adults receive Christmas gifts. And, of course, everybody (even the poor) receives the gift of the newborn baby Jesus.

**Easter** is a bit more complicated because we get nothing. Well, not nothing, to be exact. Instead of a presence (like the Christ child), we get an absence, i.e. the empty tomb. Christ is risen. He is gone from the tomb. He got away. He is out and about, loose in the world. “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen,” the two men in dazzling clothes say to the women who come to the tomb of Jesus on the first Easter morning (Luke 24:5)

**The good news** of Easter is that the emptiness of the tomb, the absence of Christ in his rocky grave, means that the world, our world, is filled with his presence. Every time we get together for worship, and especially when we share the Lord’s Supper, we are reminded that Christ is with us. And that is surely good news for any day.

Easter Blessings to you,

*Pastor Hahn*

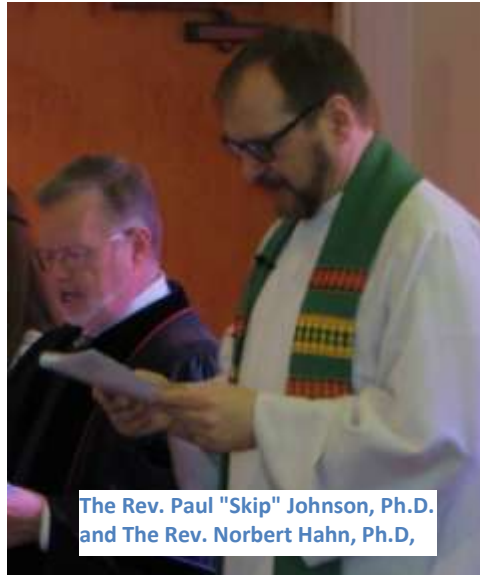
P.S.: Thank you for all your gifts, cards, and greetings for my ordination anniversary. Your participation made it a memorable celebration for me.

# PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

On February 19, 2017, we celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pastor Hahn's Ordination. The following photos of the worship service and celebration were provided by Otto Leuker.



Stewart Blankenhorn presented Pastor Hahn with a plaque from ELCA Bishop Eaton and SEPA Bishop Burkat.



The Rev. Paul "Skip" Johnson, Ph.D. and The Rev. Norbert Hahn, Ph.D.



Reading of the Gospel by Pastor Hahn



Sermon by Rev. Johnson



Choir Offertory: "Where Your Treasure Is"

## Installation of Church Council – March 12, 2017

Photo by George C. Herrmann



## Gott Neu Vertrauen

Vor 500 Jahren nahmen sich die Reformatoren die Freiheit, die Autoritäten ihrer Zeit und gängige Vorstellungen von Gott, Glauben und Kirche infrage zu stellen.

Neues Nachdenken über Gott und Welt, Bibel und Glaube, Religion und Politik begann. Die Reformatoren begaben sich - wie schon viele vor ihnen - neu auf Gottessuche.

"Anlässlich des Reformationsjubiläums 2017 soll es wieder darum gehen, in einer zunehmend säkular denkenden Gesellschaft Gott selbst neu ins Gespräch zu bringen", schreibt der Vorsitzende des Rates der EKD, Heinrich Bedford-Strohm.

Ein neu gefundenes Vertrauen in Gott habe Folgen für die ökumenische Situation, für die Frömmigkeit des Christenmenschen und für seine Weltverantwortung.

"Gemeinsam können wir Gott neu entdecken, Christus feiern und öffentlich zeigen, dass es eine stärkere Botschaft gibt als die alltäglichen Botschaften von Gewalt, Zerstörung und Leid", so Bedford-Strohm.

Mehr Informationen zu diesem Thema gibt es auf der Internetseite der EKD [http://www.ekd.de/themen/luther2017/gott\\_neu\\_vertrauen.html](http://www.ekd.de/themen/luther2017/gott_neu_vertrauen.html) sowie auf der besonderen Internetseite <http://www.gott-neu-vertrauen.de/>

## Trusting God in a New Way

*Five hundred years ago, the Protestant reformers took the liberty to question not only the traditional authorities of their time but also the prevailing ideas of God, faith, and church.*



*So began a process of pondering anew the concepts of God and world, religion and politics. Like many others before them, the reformers began a new search for God.*

*"The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Reformation is the reason for a similar endeavor: to begin talking about God in a fresh way in a society that is increasingly shaped by secular thinking," writes Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, the Chairperson of the EKD Council.*

*Trusting God in a new way has implications for the ecumenical dialog, for the personal faith of Christians and for the way they care for the world.*

*"Together we can discover God in a fresh way, worship Christ, and give public witness to the fact that there is Good News that is stronger than the daily news of violence, destruction and suffering," says Bedford Strohm.*

*Additional information about this topic is available on the home page of the EKD (Protestant Church in Germany)*

*[http://www.ekd.de/themen/luther2017/gott\\_neu\\_vertrauen.html](http://www.ekd.de/themen/luther2017/gott_neu_vertrauen.html) and the special website, <http://www.gott-neu-vertrauen.de>*

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**To show His love, Jesus died for us;  
to show our love, we live for Him.**

# WORSHIP SERVICES FOR APRIL 2017

**Wednesday** **April 5**

11:30 AM Worship Service

12:15 PM Light Lunch

**Palm Sunday** **April 9**

10:30 AM Combined Service with  
Confirmation Reunion and  
Procession with Palms

**Maundy Thursday / Holy Thursday /  
Gründonnerstag** **April 13**

11:30 AM Communion Service followed  
by a Light Lunch and Fellowship

7:30 PM Communion Service preceded  
by a Light Meal and Fellowship

**Good Friday / Karfreitag** **April 14**

11:30 AM English Service

3:00 PM German Service followed  
by Holy Communion

7:30 PM English Service - Tenebrae

**Easter Saturday** **April 15**

6:30 PM Easter Fire and Fellowship

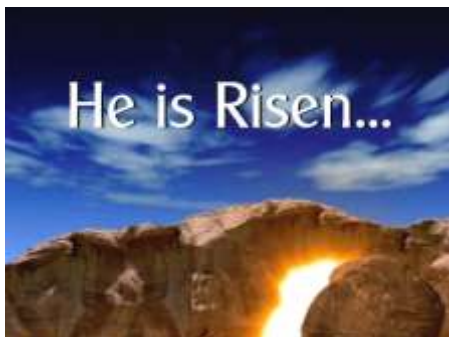
7:30 PM Easter Vigil Worship

**Easter Sunday / Ostersonntag** **April 16**

**9:15 AM** English Festival Service  
with Holy Communion

10:30 AM Fellowship

11:00 AM Deutscher Festgottesdienst  
mit Hl. Abendmahl



# ON-LINE GIVING

Immanuel is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly (or monthly) offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- Visit the church website at [www.immanuelphilly.org](http://www.immanuelphilly.org).
- Click on the "Donate" button,
- Click on the "Create Profile" button, then
- Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

You can also use this site to make one time donations to the 40 Days of Giving (World Hunger), Building Fund, Memorial Fund, Organ/Music Fund and the Evangelism/Outreach Program.

If you do not wish to use a computer, fill out an authorization form on the information table behind the sanctuary and put it in the attached envelope for Elaine Bradley (financial secretary).

You can even donate from your smart phone.



Immanuel also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR code reader or go to

[www.immanuelphilly.org](http://www.immanuelphilly.org)

and locate the "Donate" button on the home page.

# DON'T MISS OUT ON THE EASTER FIRE AND THE EASTER VIGIL (HOLY SATURDAY)

Saturday, April 15, 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM

**What is an Easter Vigil?** – The Easter vigil is an evening service of Scripture readings and prayers in which believers vigilantly and eagerly wait and watch for the celebration of the Savior's deliverance.

The Easter Vigil is the most well known and historic of the Church's vigils. In fact, in its general structure, it is one of the most ancient rites of the Christian Church. Early records indicate that it may have been celebrated in Jerusalem already by the second century, and it soon spread to the rest of the church.



**What is so special about the Easter Vigil?** In many ways, the Easter Vigil is the partner of the Good Friday Tenebrae Service. Just as darkness signals Jesus' death, so also the light signals Jesus' resurrection. During the vigil the initial darkness in the worship space is overcome by light, reminding us of the fact that death was unable to conquer Christ.

**What is the meaning of the Easter Vigil?** The Easter Vigil stresses the Christian's participation in Christ's resurrection, focusing on the means by which the blessings of Christ's resurrection become our own. Through the reading of the Word worshipers are reminded of God's great acts of deliverance, the culmination of which was his resurrection from the dead.

**How can we celebrate Easter on Saturday?** In Jesus' day, people reckoned time differently than we do today. One day ended and a new day began at dusk (6:00 PM). This is why the Jewish leaders were in such a hurry to get the bodies down from the cross (John 19:31) and why Joseph and Nicodemus were in such a hurry to bury Jesus' body (Luke 23:55,56).

Based on this way of reckoning time, the first day of the week, the day of Jesus' resurrection, began at dusk the evening before. By the time the women arrived at the tomb "early in the morning" and "before it was light" the stone had already been rolled away, and Jesus was gone (Luke 24:1, John 20:1). By this time, Jesus had also completed his post-resurrection descent into hell (1 Peter 3:18,19). All of this happened before the sun rose on Sunday morning. Therefore, celebrating Jesus' resurrection already on Saturday after dusk is entirely appropriate.

**Can I attend the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services?** Absolutely! You may want to come a little early, say 6:30 PM, on Holy Saturday and participate in the fun and fellowship around the Easter fire in the back parking lot. Enjoy a beverage and/or roast a marshmallow over the open fire.

# CONNECTING WITH OTHER PEOPLE

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Several great events took place recently  
at Immanuel or involving Immanuel people:

1. **The 144<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cannstatter Club.** A number of members and friends of Immanuel helped celebrate this milestone event.
2. In response to an invitation by city council member Al Taubenberger, **Pastor Hahn** gave the invocation for the Philadelphia City Council on March 16.
3. **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** at Immanuel. Close to 80 members, friends, and neighbors of Immanuel enjoyed the first St. Patrick's Day celebration on the Immanuel church campus.
4. On Sunday, March 26, members and friends of Immanuel as well as members and clergy from area congregations celebrated the **Installation of Pastor Hahn** as Immanuel's shepherd and pastoral leader. Conference Dean Paul Sorcek presided.

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## IMMANUEL'S EASTER EGG HUNT



**Saturday,  
April 15, 2017  
(Rain or Shine!)  
12:30 PM**

Immanuel is having an Easter Egg Hunt!  
Won't you join us? Don't forget to bring your  
basket or bag!

This fun event will be held on our campus  
(inside, if it rains). We invite neighbors, friends and  
families of Immanuel to attend.

The Easter Egg Hunt begins promptly at  
**12:30 PM** on **Saturday, April 15**. There will be  
three different age groups searching for eggs on  
the lawn: 2-5, 6-9 and 10+.

We have received Thrivent Action Team  
support for this project.

## HAM SUPPER



The **Ham Supper** will take  
place on Saturday,  
**April 1, 2017**, from  
3:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

We invite you to visit the Sweet Shop  
and Bazaar while waiting for your table  
to be called.

## LIGHT LUNCH AND MOVIE

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 12:30-3:30 PM**

Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship. All  
are welcome!

We will have a light lunch followed by the  
movie "God's Not Dead 2".

When a high school teacher answers a question  
about Jesus in class, she winds up in court, facing  
an epic case that could mean the end of her career.

To reserve your spot, or if you have any  
questions, please contact Judy Friedman at 267-  
343-3606.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



ELCA World Hunger's  
**40 DAYS** of Giving

The Social Ministry Team hopes that using the daily devotions booklet, "40 Days of Giving to Fight Hunger" has been meaningful for your journey through Lent.

One in four children in Pennsylvania lives in food insecure households. Food insecurity is often caused by a loss of income, sudden illness, mounting medical bills or increasing child care expenses, which can mean having to decide whether to pay the rent or buy food for the week.

A Gallup survey says one in six Americans said they could not afford food at times within the past year. ELCA World Hunger Appeal reports 868 million people in our world are hungry.

ELCA World Hunger works effectively and efficiently to end hunger in our world. Please give generously to support our church's ministry with and for those who are hungry here in the United States and around the world.



Put your daily self-denial offering in this jar.

At the end of Lent, put your offering in a Hunger Envelope and return it to Immanuel. Make sure you put your name on the envelope to ensure proper credit.

Please keep the jar for another event in the Fall.



## LINUS DAY PROJECT SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Everyone is invited to come help or learn how to make blankets/quilts for children in hospitals. No fee or cost involved.

Any questions, please contact Barbara Hannon or Alma Dallas.

We have received Thrivent Action Team support for this project.

## POT PIES

The Ladies' Guild will be selling Pot Pies in April. The order and money may be turned in to the office or Barbara Hannon no later than Sunday, April 23, 2017.

The Pot Pies can be picked up on Saturday, April 29 between 11:15 AM and 12:00 noon.

Order forms can be found on the information table. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara at 215-637-8478.

## CHRISTMAS IN MARCH

We recently received a donation in the mail for "Animals for Jesus".

Chicks, bees, a pig and a goat added \$110 bringing our grand total to \$4,145.00.

Thanks again to all who participated



## SOMERTON FOOD BANK

We are happy to report that 98 items were delivered to the Food Bank in March. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

# APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 9:30 AM I.G.S. at LMHS <b>3:30 PM Ham            Supper and Easter            Bazaar</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 AM English Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service with Holy Communion 7:30 PM German Circle	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Member Care Team  12 noon: Worship Team  7:00 PM Christian Ed.	<b>5</b> 11:30 AM Lenten Services 12:15 PM Light Lunch  7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
<b>9</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>  10:30 AM Combined Service with Confirmation Reunion and Procession of Palms	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>11</b> 7:30 PM Ladies' Guild	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> <b>Maundy            Thursday</b> 11:30 AM Communion Service followed by a Light Lunch and Fellowship  7:30 PM Communion Service followed by a Light Meal and Fellowship	<b>14</b> <b>Good            Friday</b> 11:30 AM English Service  3:00 PM German Service followed by Holy Communion  7:30 PM English Service - Tenebrae	<b>15</b> <b>Easter            Saturday</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS 12:30 PM Easter Egg Hunt  6:30 PM Easter Fire and Fellowship  7:30 PM Easter Vigil Worship
<b>16</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:15 AM English Festival Service with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Deutscher Festgottesdienst mit Hl. Abendmahl	<b>17</b> <b>DEADLINE            FOR MAY            NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 PM Women's Book Club	<b>19</b> 11:30 AM Frauenverein  12:30 PM Light Lunch and a Movie 7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
<b>23</b> <b>First Sunday            after Easter</b> 9:30 AM English Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study  7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS 9:30 AM Linus Workshop 11:15 AM Pick-up Pot Pies
<b>30</b> <b>Second Sunday            after Easter</b> 9:30 AM English Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service						