

DECEMBER 2019

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

14100 WORTHINGTON

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19116

Phone: 215-464-1540

www.immanuelphilly.org

Immanuel Newsletter **GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS**

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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Kids Connection Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 7
10:00 AM -12:00 Noon

Annual Global Taste of Christmas From Around the World

Saturday, December 7
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

“Hope for the Holidays” Service

Sunday, December 22
2:30 PM

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24

2:00 PM Family Candlelight Christmas Service
6:00 PM Candlelight Service (German)
8:00 PM Candlelight Service (English)

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25

10:30 AM Bilingual Christmas Service with Holy
Communion

IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Websites: www.immanuelphilly.org and www.HillHappenings.org

Facebook: Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Philadelphia

Ministers: Members and Friends of the Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Norbert F. Hahn, Ph.D. 215-464-1540 PastorHahnILC@gmail.com
Secretary: Diane Burgess 215-464-1540 office@immanuelphilly.org
Council President: Barbara Hannon 215-637-8478

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING TIMES, LEADERS

Bible Study	Wednesdays	10:00 AM, 7:00 PM	Pastor Hahn
Choir	As needed		
Congregation Council	3 rd Monday	7:00 PM	Barbara Hannon
Christian Events Team	1 st Tuesday	7:00 PM	Eileen Szentjobi
Finance Team	4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	David W. Cook
Frauenverein	3 rd Wednesday	12:00 Noon	Marianne Haug
German Circle/Deutscher Kreis	1 st Sunday	7:00 PM	Ruth Muggler
Girl Scouts	Wednesdays	7:00 PM	Nancy Smith
Hand Bell Choir	As needed		
Immanuel German School	Saturdays	9:30 AM	Dr. Del Hausman
Ladies' Guild	TBA		Barbara Hannon
Member Care Team	1 st Friday	10:00 AM	Judy Friedman
Mutual Ministry Team	TBA		John Scholtz
Social Ministry Team	TBA		
Sunday School	Sundays	9:30 AM	Eileen Szentjobi
Worship Planning Team	2nd Tuesday	2:00 PM	
Youth Group	TBA		Chris Blankenhorn and Eileen Szentjobi

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL STAFF

Diane Burgess David W. Cook Pastor Norbert F. Hahn Marianne Haug
George C. Hermann - Photographer

Send information or questions to IELC.newsletter@comcast.net.

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.

CONNECTING WITH GOD

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES FOR 2019

First Sunday of Advent – Sunday, December 1

- 9:30 AM English Service with Holy Communion
- 10:30 AM Fellowship
- 11:00 AM German Service with Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Advent – Sunday, December 8

- 9:30 AM English Service
- 10:30 AM Fellowship
- 11:00 AM German Service
- 12:30 PM German Christmas Party

Please note the time change.

All Bilingual Services will start at 10:30 AM

Third Sunday of Advent – Sunday, December 15

- 10:30 AM Bilingual Service followed by
The Congregational Christmas Celebration,
including luncheon and fellowship. All are welcome.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Sunday, December 22

- 9:30 AM English Service
- 10:30 AM Fellowship
- 11:00 AM German Service
- 2:30 PM “Hope for the Holidays “ Service
A special service of comfort, hope and encouragement
for those who are dealing with loss, stress, and grief.

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24

- 2:00 PM Christmas for Young and Old Candlelight Service
- 6:00 PM Candlelight Service (German)
- 8:00 PM Candlelight Service (English)

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25

- 10:30 AM Bilingual Christmas Service with Holy Communion

First Sunday of Christmas – Sunday, December 29

- 10:30 AM Bilingual Christmas/New Year Celebration

Epiphany of Our Lord – Sunday, January 5, 2020

- 9:30 AM English Service with Holy Communion
- 10:30 AM Fellowship
- 11:00 AM German Service with Holy Communion



From Pastor Hahn

My dear church family:

One of the best-loved hymns in history, “Joy to the World, “ turns 300 this year. In 1719, Isaac Watts penned this beautiful song, and we have been singing it at Christmastime in faith communities all around the world for three centuries. That makes this year a special occasion!



The beauty about this hymn is that when we sing about “Joy to the World, “ joy seems to be created in us. I know a few curmudgeons whose crusty exterior would melt into delight when singing or hearing this beautiful hymn.

“Joy to the world! “ It is a great idea. The world most certainly needs more joy; true joy that is anchored in the heart; not artificial, present- or punch-induced momentary happiness.

You and I can bring great joy to the world—and to our own hearts—by giving some very special Christmas gifts to the special people in our lives: gifts from the ELCA special gifts catalog: *(see the insert for more information.)*

Bring joy to the world, joy to your heart, and joy to those for whom you buy these special gifts: honey bees, a goat, chickens, a piglet, perhaps even a goat or a fish farm.



Be on the lookout for your unique Christmas gift from Lyn and me.

Advent Blessings and Christmas Peace!

Christmas Came Early This Year: Twice-- Two True and Amazing Stories!

Mrs. Smith had dreaded the appointment. Although she liked the man assigned to her, he usually bored her with too much information. This time, however, it was different. He came straight to the point: “Mrs. Smith, “ the accountant said, “the law requires you to take a distribution from you IRA. “

“What are my options, “ she inquired. “Basically, you have two, “ he replied. “If you need the money, have it paid to you. But then you have to pay a lot of taxes. “ “What is the other option? “ Mrs. Smith wanted to know. “Well, “ he said, “you could direct the funds to a charitable organization, like a church, that you care about and like to support. Then no taxes are due. “

She liked that idea and decided then and there to have the required IRA payout sent to her church.

Something had happened, and Bobby had stopped participating at her church. Eventually, she also stopped sending her financial gifts.

For a while she tried other churches, but nothing seemed to fit. So, she just took a spiritual hiatus.

Then she heard about the revival and fresh wind at her old church that had come with new leadership. She checked it out, liked it, and got involved again.

One day, while in prayer, she felt that God laid it on her heart to make up all the offerings for the Sundays she had been away. And she did, to the glory of God!

Both stories happened at Immanuel and are shared by permission. Names and some details have been changed to protect privacy.



**Christmas Blessings
from your Immanuel
staff**

*Diane Burgess
(Secretary),*

*Mary & Ed Borneo
(Sextons)*

„Weihnachten ist Herzenssache.“ Wir alle kennen dies, wie sich in der Advents- und Weihnachtszeit die Befindlichkeit unseres Herzens verändert. Wir sind sensibler in diesen Tagen. Wir sind leichter bewegt oder angerührt. Unser Gemüt erfährt eigenartige Schwingungen. In den Tagen vor Weihnachten werden unsere Gefühle, wird unser Herz in ganz besonderer Weise angesprochen.



Auch wenn manches an vorweihnachtlicher Gefühlserregung unecht ist, es ändert nichts an der Erkenntnis, dass Weihnachten in aller erster Linie eine Herzenssache ist. Denn nur was in unseren Herzen ankommt, hat verändernde Kraft, schenkt einen anderen Umgang miteinander in unseren Familien, in unseren Freundes- und Kollegenkreisen.

Es ist gewiss kein Zufall, dass am Schluss der weihnachtlichen Geburtsgeschichte des Lukas die Worte stehen: „Maria aber behielt alle diese Worte und bewegte sie in ihrem Herzen.“ Nicht in ihrem Kopf. Nicht in ihrem klugen Verstand.

Nein: Sie bewegte die Worte der Weihnachtsbotschaft ganz drinnen bei sich. Dort, wo menschliche Gefühle entstehen und sich verdichten. Dort, wo aus diesen Gefühlen Motive zu einem veränderten Tun entspringen.

Nichts wird die Weihnachtsbotschaft bewirken, wenn sie nicht unser Herz erreicht. Alles kann sie bewirken, wenn wir ihre Worte in unseren Herzen bewegen. Alles, wirklich alles.

Da können wir Kraft gewinnen, für den Frieden auf Erden einzutreten. Da können wir die Kraft gewinnen, der Vergiftung des politischen Klimas in unserem Land entgegenzuwirken. Da können wir Kraft gewinnen, gegen die kollektive Depressivität

unserer Gesellschaft von der Zukunft zu reden, die Gott uns eröffnet hat. Da können wir Kraft gewinnen, bedingungslos einzutreten für ein friedliches Zusammenleben mit Fremden.

Was in unseren Herzen ankommt, das hat Kraft, in heilemdem Tun an und in dieser Welt seinen Ausdruck zu finden. Was wir in unseren Herzen bewegen, das kann nicht darin eingesperrt bleiben, das will in alle Welt hinaus, um heilend und heilbringend in ihr zu wirken. Darum ist Weihnachten nur in erster Linie eine Herzenssache.

In zweiter Linie ist es eine Sache von öffentlichem Interesse, von weltweiter Bedeutung. Ich wünsche uns allen, dass die Botschaft der Weihnacht in diesem Jahr unser Herz erreicht. Dass wir diese Botschaft in unserem Herzen bewegen - um unserer selbst und um unserer Welt willen. “

-- Landesbischof Dr. Ulrich Fischer (Eine ungekürzte Version ist unter www.ekd.de zu finden.)

“Christmas is a matter of the heart “
For an English version please contact Pastor Hahn.



Give something
unexpected
this
Christmas.

This year give a gift that makes three parties happy: (1) You, because you gave a very special gift with a great meaning; (2) the person for whom you bought it because he or she appreciates your thoughtfulness, and (3) the person or family in need who actually receives it.

Give an ELCA Good Gift that makes a difference.
See the insert for ordering details

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



All Saints Sunday was an opportunity to give thanks for **people** who were near and dear to you but who have **passed away** and rest in eternal glory.

A candle was lit and a bell chime was sounded as the name of each was read.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS



Congregational Christmas Celebration

Please remember to mark your calendar and save the date for the annual Congregational Christmas Luncheon Celebration on Sunday, December 15, 2019, from 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM.

There will be a combined worship service beginning at 10:30 AM which will include Holy Communion. Following the service, join us in the Fellowship Hall for our potluck luncheon, along with a short program, as we enjoy sharing an afternoon of fellowship with friends at Christmas. Please feel free to invite your family and friends, as all are welcome!

To make the potluck luncheon successful, we ask if you would consider making a food donation, perhaps a main dish, side dish or a dessert. If you would rather not prepare any food, you might offer to bring a beverage or make a financial contribution. We need volunteers to help make this afternoon run smoothly.



SAUERKRAUT SUPPER AND CHRISTMAS BAZAAR NOVEMBER 16, 2019



CHARLIE THE CHURCH MOUSE

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother, "I can't read, I can't write and they won't let me talk!!!"

ALTERNATIVE TO CHRISTMAS CARDS



Instead of writing Christmas cards to members of the congregation, whom you will be seeing throughout this season with opportunities for personal greetings, why not make a financial donation to:

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

A greeting to the congregation listing all donors will be enclosed with the Pastor's Christmas letter.

Use an envelope to deliver your donation via the offering plate or directly to the church office, no later than Monday, December 9, 2019. Special envelopes will be provided on the information table in the room behind the nave. Make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

GERMAN CIRCLE

There will be a German Circle meeting on December 1st at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you on the first and on the eight for Weihnachtsfeier.

Ruth Muggler

WEICHNACHTSFEIER

We will have our German Christmas party (Weihnachtsfeier), on December 8th at 12:30 PM. Invite some of your German friends and enjoy singing Christmas carols and have a light lunch, coffee, cake and cookies. All are Welcome!



CHARLIE THE CHURCH MOUSE

Three boys are in the church yard bragging about their fathers. The first one says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem and they give him \$25." The second boy says, "that's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes four people to collect all the money!"

POINSETTIAS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Forms for Poinsettias and Memorial Gifts at Christmas are now available on the information table in the room behind the nave. Remember, the deadline is Monday, December 16, 2019.



LIVING LUTHERAN

Many of our members and friends have been receiving Living Lutheran for the past several years. It is time for us to renew our subscriptions. If you did not have a subscription, you can sign up now.

It is important that we have at least 50 people/families subscribing to Living Lutheran so that the cost is only \$8.95 a year instead of the regular price of \$19.95 a year. The magazine will be mailed directly to your house. Make your checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and give them to Barbara Hannon. For additional information, check the information table in the room behind the nave or contact Barbara Hannon.

Kids Connection Christmas Celebration

Kids Connection will have their Children's Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 7, 2019. There will be singing, games, crafts and the Christmas Story. The event starts at 10:00 AM. and will end approximately 12:00 Noon, including a light lunch. If you would like your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews to attend, please RSVP to immanuelkidsconnection@gmail.com, office@immanuelphilly.org, or leave a message with the church office at 215-464-1540 by Wednesday, December 4th. We do ask that one adult from each family attend. Last year's event was enjoyed by everyone who attended. We look forward to seeing your children at the event "Jesus is the reason for the season".



Annual Global Taste of Christmas From Around the World Saturday, December 7, 2019 2:30 - 4:00 PM

You are invited to join us on Saturday, December 7th at our Fourth Annual Global Taste of Christmas program. All are welcome to this free community event! Feel free to invite family, friends and neighbors.

The doors will open at **2:00 PM**.

Enjoy small tastes of Christmas treats and beverages from a variety of countries.
Learn unique and interesting Christmas customs and traditions!

Reservations are required. Please visit <http://www.hillhappenings.org> to register online, contact the church office at 215-464-1540 to register.
This event is geared for persons age 12 and older.

*Admission and participation to this event is **FREE**, however, it would be appreciated if you bring a canned food item(s) as a donation for our local Somerton Food Bank.*



This event is a community outreach project sponsored by Thrivent Financial.



CHARLIE THE CHURCH MOUSE

Two elderly men from Canada were sharing childhood memories. One said, "When I was a kid, my parents would always say, "Excuse my French' just after a swear word. I'll never forget my first day at school when my teacher asked if any of us knew any French. "

TRUNK OR TREAT PHOTO PAGE

We want to thank everyone who helped make this year's Trunk or Treat such a great success. As always, our congregation was very generous with their donations which are very much appreciated.



Over 80 children attended, many with their parents. We served over 100 hot dogs and door prizes were also given away:



2- \$10 gift cards to the Dollar Store for the kids, \$15.00 food/restaurant gift cards and \$15.00 Wawa gift card was given to the adults.



There were 13 decorated trunks in total.



This activity was sponsored by Thrivent.



STAMPS - STAMPS - STAMPS



With the Christmas season fast approaching we'll be receiving a lot of holiday mail, please don't throw the stamps on your envelopes away.



Cut or rip the corner of the envelope with the stamp attached and bring them to church. Mrs. Haug will send them to the BETHEL INSTITUTION located near Bielefeld, Germany. This is a Protestant charitable hospital institution that provides sheltered housing and suitable work for the mentally ill and the physically handicapped people living there. They work with and use the stamps to sell them to support this important Institution.

Remember as you cut or rip off the envelope corner, leave some space around the stamps.

For further information on Bethel Institution, you can refer to: www.briefmarken-bethel.de

A FOND FAIRWELL TO THE SIMPSONS



On October 27, 2019 we said goodbye to long time members Mike and Christine Simpson.

Dear Immanuel Friends,

Thank you so much for the great send-off you had for Mike and I.

As you know, we love and will miss you all very much.

You have all been a big part of our lives. We are settling in with our "230" boxes.

Love to all,
Christine & Mike



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



LINUS UPDATE

The total number of blankets made for the October Linus Project was 49, an excellent amount. Total of blankets contributed over the years, from the members of Immanuel, is 1,217. We are delighted that we can help the children in this way and hope we can continue this worthwhile Linus Project.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>1st Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM English Service with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service with Holy Communion 6:30 PM Evening Service with Holy Communion 7:00 PM German Circle 7:15 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 PM Christian Events Team</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 AM Member Care Team Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS</p> <p>10:00 AM Kids Connection</p> <p>2:30 PM Global Taste of Christmas</p>
<p>8</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM English Service 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service 12:00 German Christmas Party 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe</p>	<p>9</p> <p>DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM Dean's Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship Committee</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AM Newsletter Mailing</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 AM Immanuel German School Weihnachtsprogramm at LMHS</p>
<p>15</p> <p>3rd Sunday in Advent Congregational Christmas Celebration 10:30 AM Bilingual Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 AM Pot Luck Luncheon 6:30 PM Evening Service with Holy Communion 7:15 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM Council</p> <p>DEADLINE FOR POINTSETTI A MEMORIALS</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>12 Noon Frauenverein</p> <p>7:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>4th Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM English Service 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service 2:30 PM "Hope for the Holidays" Service 5:00 PM Kids Connection 6:30 PM Evening Service with Holy Communion 7:15 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>2:00 PM Family Celebration</p> <p>6:00 PM German Celebration</p> <p>8:00 PM English Celebration</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>10:30 AM Bilingual Celebration with Holy Communion</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>1st Sunday of Christmas 10:30 AM Bilingual Christmas/New Year Celebration Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				