

FEBRUARY 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

Immanuel Newsletter

GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

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**The Immanuel Church Campus
in the Snow**

IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Council President:	Stewart Blankenhorn	215-947-5079	

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING TIMES, LEADERS

Choir	TBA		Dr. James M. Clements
Church Council	2 nd Monday	7:00 PM	Stewart Blankenhorn
Christian Education Team	1 ST Tuesday	7:00 PM	Eileen Szentjobi
Frauenverein	3 rd Wednesday	11:30 AM	Marianne Haug
German Circle/Deutscher Kreis	1 st 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 nd Tuesday	7:30 PM	Barbara Hannon
Sunday School	Sundays	9:30 AM	Eileen Szentjobi
Women's Book Club	TBA		Judy Friedman
Youth Group	1 st 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

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Von Pastor Hahn:

Die Jahreslosung 2017 der Vereinigten Evangelisch Lutherischen Kirche in Deutschland (VELKD) ist von Ezeiel, auch Hesekeil, 36, 26: *Gott spricht: Ich schenke euch ein neues Herz und lege einen neuen Geist in euch.*

Diese Worte wurden im 6. Jahrhundert vor Christus durch den Propheten an das Volk Israel gerichtet, das nach Babylon in die Gefangenschaft deportiert wurde. Mit diesen Worten ermutigte der Prophet das Volk zu einem neuen Lebensmut, ein Aufatmen, und ein Zutrauen in die Zukunft. Die Gottlosigkeit der Juden (= die Ursache der Deportation) und das Unrecht der Babylonier sollte nicht das Ende sein, konnte nicht das Ende sein.

Diese Worte sind aber auch an uns gerichtet. Obwohl ca. 2,600 Jahre zwischen dem Propheten und uns liegen, sehen wir doch wie wenig die Menschen sich veraendert haben. Unrecht geschieht nach wie vor reichlich, und Gottlosigkeit gibt es auch genug—oft sogar bei Menschen, die sich als glaeubig bezeichnen. Leider fuehrt gerade Gottlosigkeit-- d.i. das Loslassen von Gott, das Abgehen von Gottes Wegen—gerade erst richtig zu Unrecht. (Es gibt Ethiker, fuer die der Raubbau an der Natur und die Zerstoerung des Klimas gute Beispiele sind.)

Sicher wollen viele von uns im Jahr 2017 es mit dem Leben ein bisschen besser machen und den Glauben ein bisschen ernster nehmen. Vielleicht werden wir auch die Welt ein wenig zum Guten hin veraendern. Das ist schoen.

Aber, so der Theologe, ein neues Herz und einen neuen Geist koennen wir uns nicht selber geben. Wir koennen nur vertrauen, dass Gott uns verwandelt. Dann koennen wir aufatmen. Dazu ist sicher hilfreich, Gott durch Gebet, Gottesdienst, und Taten der Naechstenliebe nahe zu sein.

Gottes Segen. Ihr Pastor Hahn

From Pastor Hahn:

Every year, the Lutheran Church in Germany selects a biblical verse to serve as the guiding “motto” for the next year. The one for 2017 is from Ezeiel 36:26: *God speaks: A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you.*

The words were spoken in the 6th Century B.C. by the prophet Ezeiel to the people of Israel who had been dragged into captivity by the Babylonians. He wanted to encourage them, build up their hope and their faith in the future. Their own godliness, which had caused their deportation, could not continue and neither could the injustices inflicted upon them by their Babylonian captors.

These words, however, are also directed at us. Despite the gap of 2,600 years between the prophet and us, we can see how little people have changed. There are still injustices aplenty, and godlessness abounds—frequently even with people who call themselves believers. Unfortunately, it often is the case that godlessness—i.e. letting go of God, going one’s own way, following one’s own ego and instinct—leads to injustice and suffering. (Good examples, for some ethicists, are the destruction of the earth and of the climate.)

Many of us, I trust, intend to live more intentionally in 2017 and to take our faith more seriously. Perhaps we will be successful with personal positive change and with making the world a little bit better. That would be great.

However, we are cautioned by the theologians, we will not be able to give ourselves a new heart or a new spirit. We can only trust that God will change us. That will be a relief. It will certainly be helpful, therefore, to stay closely connected to God through prayer, worship, and acts of neighborly love and kindness.

God’s Peace. Pastor Hahn

CHRISTMAS 2016

Although there may be no more signs of Christmas around when you read this, at the time of writing (January 11), there were still plenty of yards and houses near the church campus and around Somerton and Feasterville that still had their Christmas decorations, both secular and religious, in their yards, windows, and living rooms.

It seems, therefore, appropriate to review briefly how the Immanuel church family celebrated Christmas:

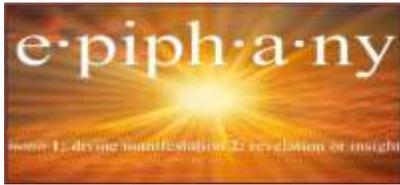
- The Christmas party on December 11, sponsored by the German Circle, had nearly a 50% increase in participation over the previous year as well as the inclusion of some film clips both serious and humorous. As they say, "A good time was had by all."
- 120 persons participated in worship on December 18 - 103 at the combined service and 17 at the "Blue Christmas" service (a special opportunity for those who are coping with loss)-- and nearly the same number of people enjoyed the congregational Christmas program.



- Christmas Eve saw 108 people at the 4:00 PM family oriented Christmas service, a good number of whom were children who participated in an interactive message with Pastor Hahn. The German language service at 6:00 PM had 113 worshippers, and the English service at 8:00 PM rounded out the evening with 68 participants.



- The plucky group of 28 worshippers on Christmas Day morning brings the total number of people who celebrated Christ's birth at Immanuel to 317. This represents an **increase of 12.01%** over the previous year (283). Thank you for your faithfulness in worship!



“It took only a few decades,” said one of our members recently, “but I finally realized that the Bible mentions neither “three” nor “kings” but only speaks of “magi” (often translated as “wise men.” And, that group of travelers may also have included women.).

“Also, I finally realized that they did not arrive on the first Christmas Eve when Jesus was born (contrary what a lot of paintings and Christmas plays had led me to believe), but arrived almost two years later.”

The arrival of the undetermined number of people at the home of Jesus is observed in the Christian calendar on January 6, the “Epiphany of our Lord”. That holy day begins, of course, the liturgical season of Epiphany which ends with Ash Wednesday.



One of the customs associated with the Epiphany season is the practice of “house blessings”. Clergy will come to parishioner’s houses, apartments, or condos and offer either a doorstep blessing (a short blessing at the front door) or a lengthier blessing of the inside of the home.

Pastor Hahn is making himself available for blessing the homes of members and friends of Immanuel. (This will be on a first-come, first-served basis.) If you are interested, please contact him at 215-464-1540 or at PastorHahnILC@gmail.com.

Thank You

Jesus said many things that don’t seem to make sense at first glance. Sometimes a saying of his requires further thought because a deeper truth needs to be unearthed. At other times, a saying seems to go against common sense or usual practice.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” could be counted as one of those sayings. What it conveys, in short, is that where and how people spend, give, or invest their money is a big clue to what really matters to them. Indirectly, it seems to indicate that people of faith--for whom God is the highest priority--spend, give, or invest their money in a God pleasing way.



Here is a summary of the giving commitments made last November by the members and friends of our church family for 2017:

- 74 households completed an Estimate of Giving card.
- About 60% of those showed an increase over last year or are new commitments.

Our financial ability to do God’s work in the coming year will increase over 2016 despite the death of several generous givers.

Your ongoing weekly gifts will support the many ways through which the members and friends of our church family connect with God, connect with each other and other people, and make a difference in the lives of people locally, nationally, and globally. Thank you!

CONNECTING WITH OTHER PEOPLE

You are invited to:

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation
on Sunday, February 5, 2017
immediately following the combined worship service
at 10:00 AM**

There will be reports about the church's ministry, including a financial report and a vote on the 2017 Budget.

All members, 18 years or older, are herewith urged to attend. Members are asked to submit nominations of church members to serve on church council for a term of office of three years. Nominations may be given to Council President Stewart Blankenhorn.

IMMANUEL'S CAFE

Thanks to Gerlinde Kraft, Carl Kaempf, Herb & Eileen Szentjobi, Erich Weiss, Sylvia Hansen and Barbara Hannon for hosting the Coffee Hours in December and January.

Coffee hour hosts are always needed. If you are able to host any of the coffee hours, please sign up on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

GERMAN CIRCLE

I wish all German Circle members a Happy New Year and a healthy one. We will have our February meeting on the 12th at 7:00 pm at Immanuel Church.

We have a date for our Ham Supper.;
April 1, 2017.

I am sorry to inform you that we lost two of our members in December, Willy Purucker and Frank Muggler who are now with the Lord. They will be greatly missed.

Ruth Muggler

LIVING LUTHERAN

The Lutheran has changed its name to
Living Lutheran.

Many of our members and friends have been receiving this magazine for several years, and it is time for us to renew our subscriptions. If you do not have a subscription, you can sign up now!

Living Lutheran is the publication of the ELCA, the national Lutheran church. It is a monthly publication that brings the news of the church - local, national, international - to us, the ELCA members. They strive to explore our Christian faith on a personal, congregational and worldwide basis through stories that educate, inspire, and nurture faith.

As long as we have 50 people/families that subscribe to *The Lutheran*, 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. Payment will be made through Immanuel. Make check payable to "Immanuel Lutheran Church".

NEW! Calling All Men!



We would like to either revive the old Brotherhood men's group or try something new. (Or maybe do both!)

If you are a man (sorry ladies) and are ever so slightly interested in participating in a group just for guys or feel that you can offer your assistance in launching this group, please contact Pastor Hahn at 215-464-1540 or at PastorHahnLC@gmail.com.

Dates for getting together and details about potential events and actions will be published after a survey of those indicating an interest.



Participation in the Lord's Supper was very high on Martin Luther's list of important things. For many years, Lutheran laypersons have been trained to take the Lord's Supper to those who cannot partake at Sunday Worship.

We would like to begin such a ministry at Immanuel. Please let Pastor Hahn know if you wish to participate or if you wish to learn more.

Contact him at 215-464-1540 or PastorHahnLC@gmail.com.



Immanuel in the News

Our church family and our ministries have been in the news three times over the past few weeks:

- Our "Blue Christmas" service for people who are coping with loss was mentioned in The Northeast Times, and a couple of people from the community did attend.
- The Northeast Times also mentioned our Christmas Eve services which saw a good number of first-time guests and an overall increase of attendance of 12%.
- "Das Kirchliche Monatsblatt," a publication for all congregations in the U.S. and Canada with German language worship services mentioned our "Trunk or Treat" Halloween event and recommended that other congregations follow our example in reaching out to their neighborhoods in similarly creative ways.

The "New Yorker Staatszeitung/German Times" had a full page spread with pictures of our nave (main worship space) beautifully decorated for Christmas and a brief accompanying article lifting up the stress relieving impact of the worship atmosphere.

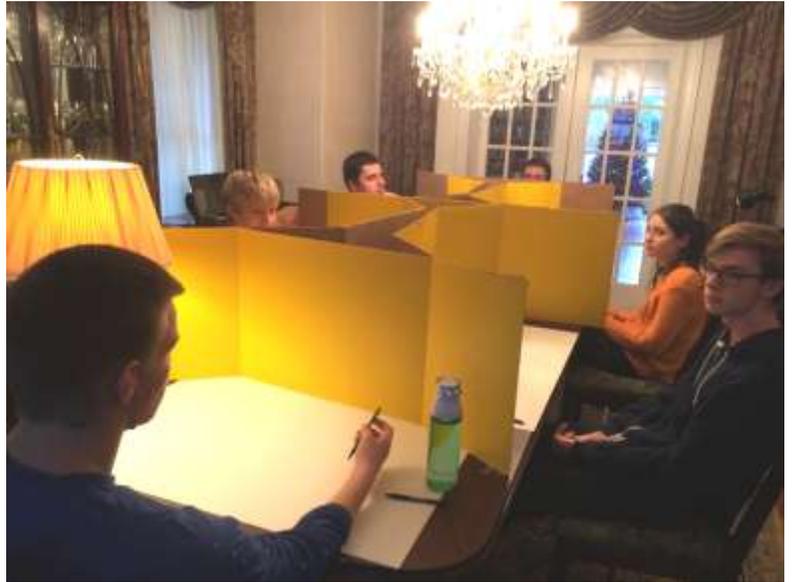
Many thanks to Diane Burgess, our office secretary, and to Sieglinde Jakymiw and Otto Leukert for getting the word out."

IMMANUEL GERMAN SCHOOL

Remember that Snow Day?

For the second year in a row, our top-level students were poised to take the written portion of the German Language Diploma, Level II (Deutsches Sprachdiplom II), when Mother Nature intervened and caused the schools to close. This year, we were able to make alternate arrangements, postponing the test from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM and holding it on the Hausmans' dining room table. The oral test was held the following day in the Hausmans' living room, with Fachbetreuerin Friederike Braun traveling to Jenkintown to administer the test along with Marianne Haug and teacher Ester Eichler.

Unfortunately, the school's Weihnachtsfeier did not fare so well. A greatly abbreviated version of the celebration was held on Saturday, January 7, starting at 11:30 AM. With all the older students preparing for the National German Exam for the following Saturday, the Christmas show was limited to a few songs from our younger students.



Christmas Eve Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church

We were proud that three of our Immanuel students/alumni, Matthias Hausman, Juliane Scholtz and Pascal Aubert were able to take turns reading from the *Lukasevangelium* during the German Language church service this Christmas Eve.

The School's Mission is 'to provide German language and cultural instruction to children and adults that will enable them to more fluently communicate in German and to better understand and appreciate German culture and traditions.

Current enrollment: 122 children enrolled in 12 classes - PreK through A.P.

37 adults enrolled in 3 classes

Total enrollment to date: 4,329 students.

Upcoming Events: Saturday, February 25: *Fasching*.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

“Animals for Jesus”



The Social Ministry Team would like to say **THANK YOU** to all of the members and friends who participated in the “Animals for Jesus” Christmas emphasis. We collected \$4,035.00, which exceeds our goal of \$2,500.00 by \$1,535.00.

With this money we were able to send:

- 34 Groups of ten little chicks (\$10 per group)
- 43 Families of honey bees (\$20 per family)
- 27 Pigs (\$30 each)
- 28 Goats (\$50 each)
- 3 Sheep (\$125 each) and
- 1 Fish farm (\$250 per farm)

to needy families around the world through the ELCA “Good Gifts” program.

This is how you “**make a difference**”.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SOCIAL MINISTRY DONATIONS

Thank you to our members and friends for their donations to our Social Ministry projects for the holidays. Your generosity helped make the holidays brighter for many individuals and families.

Silver Springs Martin Luther School

Again this year Immanuel donated cash and gift cards to help give the children a happy Christmas.

For many of these children, Silver Springs provides the bright and caring part of their lives. Some of the money was used to purchase grocery store gift cards for the children’s families so that they would have a nutritious meal to enjoy with their family on Christmas Day. The remaining money was donated to the Christmas fund which helps to provide the Christmas Day celebrations and gifts for the children who are unable to spend the day with family or friends, as well as gifts for the children’s birthdays. Your donations helped to make Christmas special for the children living at Silver Springs. Additional donations to Silver Springs can be made any time during the year.

Philadelphia Protestant Home

Our delivery of soap, shampoo, lotion, tissues, undershirts and socks were gladly accepted by the Philadelphia Protestant Home. Money was also donated to help cover the cost of hair care. These needed items were given to residents who are on benevolent care and do not have family members that can help them. This need continues all year and donations can be placed in the basket in the room behind the worship area.

Somerton Food Bank

Thank you for your contributions. The Food Bank is always in need of canned goods and/or monetary donation. There are many people here in our neighborhood that need a helping hand and the Somerton Food Bank is providing that help.

The shelves constantly need to be filled. You can donate food items or you can donate money. If you wish to donate money, please put it in an envelope and clearly mark it “Food Bank”.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



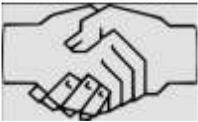
On Sunday, February 5, 2017, the Youth Group will be inviting you to donate to this worthy cause. This will be our 11th year of participation! We are extremely grateful for your generosity.

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

The Youth Group has the ability to serve and should be given opportunities to lead their communities in helping others. Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities in which they live, yet there is a joy in serving and giving to those in need.

THANK YOU

FROM Pastor Hahn:



Lyn and I would like to say a very special “thank you” to the many members and friends of the Immanuel church family who

thought of us this Christmas and blessed us with cards, treats, or small gifts items. We appreciate your care and kindness very much. (We hope each of you received the Christmas card we sent to you and enjoyed your share of the fish farm which we purchased as your Christmas gift through the ELCA Good Gifts program and Immanuel’s “Animals for Jesus” emphasis for a needy village overseas. Please let us know if you did not receive a card from us. We will check with the post office.)

TO all helpers who gave of their time and talent to



decorate our nave (main worship space) for Christmas with the Christmas tree, the poinsettias, the candles, and more as well as

to all helpers who took down the decorations and returned them safely to storage.

TO Sieglinde Jakymiw and Otto Leukert



for keeping Immanuel in the Staatszeitung

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts	2 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	3	4 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 AM Combined Service with Holy Communion ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately following the service Souper Bowl of Caring offering	6	7 7:00 PM Christian Education Team Meeting	8 10:00 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Social Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts	9 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference Meeting 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	10	11 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM English Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service 11:00 AM Youth Group 7:00 PM German Circle Deadline for March Newsletter	13 7:00 PM Church Council	14	15 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Frauenverein 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts	16 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	17	18 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
19 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 10:30 AM Combined Service celebrating Pastor Hahn's 30 th Ordination Anniversary 11:00 AM German Brunch	20	21	22 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts	23 7:00 PM Confirmation Class	24	25 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS <i>Fasching</i>
26 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 AM English Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service	27	28	Coming Events March 1 – Ash Wednesday March 17 – St. Patrick's Event April 1 – Ham Supper			