

JULY 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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"FROZEN" CHRISTMAS IN JULY

A drive-through, interactive, contactless, and fun experience on the Immanuel Church Campus

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

(rain date Thursday, July 16, 2020)

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

CONNECTING WITH GOD

From Pastor Hahn:

My dear church family:

Two topics seem to have dominated the news: (1) the Coronavirus pandemic and (2) the issue of race. The first one has made me very cautious. The second one got me thinking.

During my studies at Harvard, my roommate was a black man named Sam. For two years, I studied Religion side-by-side with Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist students from all over the world.

As a kid, I loved watching the German movies about “Winnetou,” last chief of the Apaches, based on the novels of German author, Karl May.

In Athens, Georgia, my next-door neighbors were Hispanic, and a fellow musician was Chinese American. Our neighborhood festival every summer was like a mini United Nations summit.

I always thought I was color blind. But maybe I ought to become instead “color amazed,” as Bishop Eaton put it. And maybe I should explore whether it is possible that being color blind makes me blind to the advantages that come with the color “white.”

What got me thinking was a clip on a German news show about racism in Germany. It gave this definition: *When individuals are grouped together according to certain characteristics, and the entire group (i.e. everyone in the group) is said to have particular attributes which, generally, devalue the group, then you have racism.*



Then, the speaker in the video, Nicole Broden of the Anne Frank Institute, gave some examples: “When someone says ‘gypsies are criminals,’ or ‘Muslim women who wear headscarves are submissive,’ or ‘black people are good dancers.’ The last one is a so-called ‘positive’ form of racism, but it still is racism.”

What pushed my deliberations even further was an ad for a book on racism in Germany. The title, roughly translated, is: “What White People Don’t Want to Hear about Racism but Should Know.”

God has wired me to be a learner. It is in my DNA. I always want to know more. I am curious. I want to understand myself and the world around me better. Maybe now I need to learn more about the issue of race.

Will you help me learn? Will you join me on a journey of discovery? Will you participate with me in some honest, kind, and serious conversation?

Let us get together to map out a plan. If you are interested, send an email. Give me a phone call. Send a note. I need your help.

God’s Peace,
Pastor Hahn

Thank You!



Thank you for remembering me on my birthday last month! I received cards and gifts in the mail, musical greetings live over the phone and on my answering machine, texts and emails, phone calls, and a gift was dropped off at the front door. I am deeply grateful! – Pastor Hahn

Tu es um der Liebe willen!

Von Frank Muchlinsky (Auszüge)

Wie viel Freiheit gönnen Sie sich in diesen Tagen? Wie viel Begegnung ist Ihnen möglich? Wenn Sie ganz ehrlich zu sich selbst sind: Wie leichtsinnig sind Sie bereits geworden?

In Europa wännen wir uns am Ende der Corona-Krise, obwohl wir natürlich wissen, dass die Gefahr nicht vorüber ist. In vielen Ländern ist das Virus weiterhin verheerend, und auch bei uns flammen immer wieder Infektionsherde auf. Dennoch sind wir es leid, uns Vorschriften machen zu lassen.

In der Bibel gibt es ein ganz kleines Büchlein, den Brief des Paulus an Philemon, der eine solche Situation beschreibt. Dieser Brief ist ein interessantes Dokument, weil Paulus hier einmal nicht an viele Menschen einer Gemeinde schreibt, sondern an eine Person direkt. Philemon ist ebenfalls ein Christ, und Paulus schickt ihm seinen Sklaven Onesimus aus dem Gefängnis zurück.

Was wir erfahren, ist dies: Paulus hat Onesimus getauft und schickt ihn nun zurück zu seinem Besitzer zusammen mit einer Bitte des Paulus. Es ist die Art, in der Paulus sein Anliegen an Philemon formuliert, die mich an unsere gemeinsame Situation denken lässt. Paulus schreibt: *Ich hätte die Freiheit, dir zu gebieten, was zu tun ist, aber ich will dich um der Liebe willen bitten.*

Paulus befiehlt nicht, er appelliert. Das tut er durchaus eindringlich, aber er weiß, dass es nicht viel helfen wird, wenn er Philemon schlicht schreibt: *Als Christ sollst du keine Sklaven haben, also behandle Onesimus ab sofort als Bruder.*

Philemon muss selbst der Überzeugung sein, dass er das Richtige tut, wenn er seinen Sklaven freilässt. *Ohne deinen Willen wollte ich nichts tun*, schreibt Paulus.

Wenn wir uns nicht mehr vorschreiben lassen wollen, wie wir uns in der Krise richtig zu verhalten haben, müssen wir es selbst wollen. Wir müssen "um der Liebe willen" tun, was wir nicht um des Gesetzes willen tun wollen. Das ist noch etwas anderes, als an den "gesunden Menschenverstand" zu appellieren.

Etwas aus Liebe zu tun, bedeutet, andere zum Maßstab zu machen.

Wer liebt, will das Wohlergehen derer, die man liebt. Wer liebt, kann fröhlich auf etwas verzichten, damit es dem geliebten Gegenüber gut geht.

In diesen liebenden Zustand müssen wir uns begeben, je weniger uns Gesetze und Bestimmungen zu Corona anleiten.

Tun wir das Richtige nur, weil wir es müssen, so werden wir immer unter der Last ächzen, die uns auferlegt ist. Wenn wir aber spüren, dass wir aus Liebe das Richtige tun, wird uns das freimachen, selbst, wenn wir uns beschränken müssen.

Lesen Sie den ganzen Aufsatz bei evangelisch.de.

Contact Pastor Hahn for an English version of the article



**On behalf of the Congregation Council of
Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Council President Barbara Hannon and
Pastor Hahn would like to present
the following information to you.**

During this time of the pandemic, it has been necessary to stay at home to protect ourselves and others to limit the spread of this terrible virus. We have been blessed by the support given by Diane Burgess and Matt DeMarco to provide at-home worship experiences with worship folders and worship over the phone and via the internet. Participation has consistently been higher than in-person worship. Still, it is not quite the same as attending services at our church campus on Sundays and seeing our friends.

The Congregation Council of Immanuel has carefully reviewed and discussed several pertinent articles from authoritative sources concerning returning safely to in-person, on-campus worship. We have decided to open our campus on Sunday, September 13th. There are also several things to look forward to in the coming weeks. More on that below.

We came to the decision to re-open on September 13th for several reasons:

- (1) The vulnerable population (over the age of 60 and those with health issues) is still encouraged to stay at home and avoid large gatherings. Even though we are in the yellow phase, evidence shows that indoor gatherings that are attended for a significant amount of time, and where people remain in one room, are not safe.
- (2) We need to develop a detailed and comprehensive action plan for safe worshiping. This includes defining, or limiting, the areas we could use, such as: nave, fellowship hall, entrances, exits and bathrooms. Seating must be clearly defined leaving six feet on each side, front and back. The number of worshipers would need to be limited. It will take some time to develop this plan carefully, and much help will be needed to implement it.
- (3) We need to obtain all the necessary cleaning and sanitation supplies which are becoming available only very slowly.
- (4) Our insurance company is slow in providing clear guidance and assurances if it will cover us against any lawsuits that may be brought against us for negligence or similar issues pertaining to the resumption of in-person, on-campus worship. It is important that we have certainty regarding this liability.
- (5) The air-conditioning systems in our building do not have the super high-quality, clinical filtering systems that hospitals use. It would be, therefore, unwise to use them. Opening windows during the high-temperature and high-humidity months of July and August would provide little relief.

(6) Finally, there are spiritual, ethical, and theological aspects to consider. We are, after all, Christ's Church, not a religious club. St. Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 10:23 says: "Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but not everything builds up" (CSB). The Message translation puts it this way: "You could say, 'Anything goes'.... But the point is not to just get by. We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well." An inspiring piece in the Philadelphia Inquirer by Lutheran pastor, The Reverend Kari Hart, made this very point by advocating that churches be the last ones to return to in-person gatherings as a witness of their care for others.

Gathering for worship in the building as a church community is a key ingredient in our faith lives, but we know the church is not the building, it is the people. We want to be cautious because we care about each other and we want to protect each other.

The members of our Congregation Council are calling people regularly. We urge you to do this too! Since you cannot visit with your friends over a cup of coffee during the fellowship hour on the church campus, we encourage you to call your friends—or call someone you do not know so well. Maintaining contacts during this time is important.

The Council members give thanks to everyone who is supporting Immanuel with their prayers and mailing their weekly offerings to the church office or by giving online. You are helping us to continue God's work by giving back to God from what God has given you. You are helping your church family to be strong for the future.

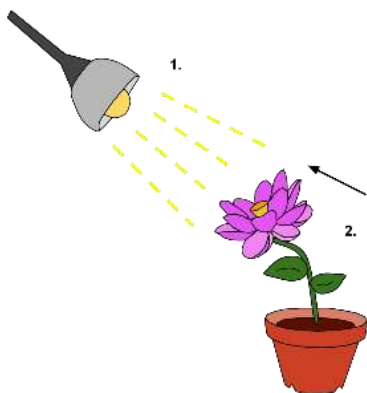
In Christ,

Barbara Hannon
Congregation Council President

The Reverend Dr. Norbert F. Hahn
Pastor



JOIN THE "STIMULUS SOCIETY"



Over the past few weeks, several members and friends of Immanuel have shared either all or a portion of the stimulus checks they received from the government. An appropriate name for this group of individuals is the "Stimulus Society at Immanuel."

You, too, can join the "Stimulus Society" either by sharing at least 10% (the Biblical Tithe) for the work of God at and beyond Immanuel. (Of course, you may share more than 10% or even all of it.) Be sure to indicate on your check or your electronic gift that the gift is from your stimulus check, and not your regular weekly gift back to God, by indicating "Stimulus Society." Thank you in advance!

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS



"FROZEN" CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Immanuel Church Campus

14100 Worthington Road

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

(rain date Thursday, July 16, 2020)

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

This is a drive-through, interactive, contactless, playful and fun experience with your favorite *Frozen* characters. Anna, Elsa and the other *Frozen* characters are your hosts for games, the Christmas Story, a take-home craft and treats. Each child is requested to donate a food item for the Food Bank. The event has timed admission and you must register for your ticket. Also, due to the current health concern, the Church building, including the rest rooms, will not be open. The children will remain in the family car as you drive to multiple stations hosted by a character. This drive-through will take approximately 20 minutes. Please see the HillHappenings.org website for further information and to register.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

ELCA reaffirms commitment to combat racism and white supremacy

The ELCA has reaffirmed its commitment to combating racism and white supremacy “following the recent murders of Black Americans,” the Conference of Bishops said in a statement. The ELCA’s social policy [resolution](#), “Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric,” was adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

“We grieve with, pray for and stand in solidarity with the families and friends of all whose loved ones have been and continue to be victims of injustices run amok, racist violence and the insidious venom of white supremacy,” the statement read. [Read the full statement](#) and find additional resources for education and participation in [ELCA Racial Justice Ministries](#).



ELCA ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17).



As a church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy, and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are called to also act and respond to injustices.

You are invited to join this cause by going to <https://elca.org/racialjusticepledge> and signing the pledge.

For the people who receive an electronic copy of the NL, the blue links should take you to the documents.
For the people who receive a paper copy, you can call 1-800-638-3522 for copies of these documents.

IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE: All Worship Services listed below will be broadcast LIVE, through ZOOM. Check your emails for instructions.</p>			<p>1 Remote Bible Study 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference (remote)</p>	<p>3 10:00 AM Member Care Team (remote)</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 7:30 PM Evening Service</p>	<p>6 7:00 PM Council (remote)</p>	<p>7 4:00 PM Worship Planning Team (remote)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:30 AM Deans Meeting (remote)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 7:30 PM Evening Service</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 6:00 PM "Frozen" Christmas in July (Outdoor) See page 6</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 RAIN DATE 6:00 PM "Frozen" Christmas in July (Outdoor) See page 6</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 7:30 PM Evening Service NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 7:30 PM Evening Service</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Remote Bible Study 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

Please note the time change!
 Evening Services will begin at **7:30 PM** and will feature more modern music.