

JUNE 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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Beer and Hymns: Friday, June 19, 7 PM

Join Pastor Hahn via internet or phone for an online celebration with good, old-fashioned hymns coming to you over the or your phone internet (just like our Sunday service) and a glass of beer (or wine, or soda, or birch beer) that you provide at your end. We may even open up all microphones and cameras and see if we can sing together.

Logon information will provided as we get closer to the event.

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Gott gibt uns die Kraft, die wir brauchen

Zum diesjährigen Himmelfahrtsfest (21. Mai) hat der Ratsvorsitzende der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), Landesbischof Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, an die Kraft erinnert, die gerade in Krisenzeiten vom Glauben ausgehen kann:

„Das Fest Christi Himmelfahrt erinnert uns daran, dass der Auferstandene nicht begrenzt bleibt auf ein bestimmtes Gebiet der Erde, sondern überall sein kann. Christus kann jedem Menschen nahe kommen, gerade in den schweren Zeiten. Und damit öffnet er den Himmel für uns und gibt uns die Kraft, die wir für uns hier und heute – und in diesen Corona-Tagen besonders – brauchen“, so Bedford-Strohm: „Trost, Zuversicht und Neuanfang – das setzt der offene Himmel für uns und für die Welt frei.“

Jesu Himmelfahrt wird in der Bibel mit einer bildlichen Szene geschildert: 40 Tage lang war Jesus nach der Auferstehung mit seinen Jüngern zusammen, dann „wurde er vor ihren Augen emporgehoben, und eine Wolke nahm ihn auf, weg vor ihren Augen“

(Apostelgeschichte Kapitel 1, Vers 11).

In der Himmelfahrt kommt zum Ausdruck, dass Jesus nicht mehr leiblich unter uns ist. Christen vertrauen darauf, dass er dennoch mit seiner Kraft und Liebe gegenwärtig ist.

Zahlreiche Kirchengemeinden feiern ihre Himmelfahrtsgottesdienste traditionell im Freien.... Weiterhin bieten viele Kirchengemeinden aber auch Gottesdienste in digitalen Formaten an.

Carsten Splitt, Pressestelle der EKD, Hannover, 19. Mai 2020.

Mehr bei www.EKD.de

God will give us the strength we need

The feast of Christ's Ascension was observed on Thursday, May 21st. The presiding bishop of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD), bishop Bedford-Strohm spoke on that occasion of the strength that faith can provide especially in times of crises:

“The feast of Christ's Ascension reminds us that the risen Christ is not limited to a certain area of the world but can be anywhere and everywhere. Christus can be a close companion to anyone, especially in difficult times. He is our heavenly connection and he gives us the strength that we need in our time and in our locality—especially amidst the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic.”
Bedford-Strohm continues: “Comfort, confidence and new beginnings—those are the promises for us and for the world that derive from the heavenly access Christ provides.”



G. Fugel: Christi Himmelfahrt, 1893

Christ's Ascension is depicted in the Acts of the Apostles (NRSV, chap. 1, verse 9): Jesus spent 40 days after his resurrection from the dead with his disciples, then, “as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”

Christ's Ascension makes clear that Jesus is no longer among us in bodily form. Christians, however, trust in faith that he continues to be present with his power and his love.

Traditionally, in Germany, a number of congregations celebrate Ascension Day worship services outdoors.... These days, many congregations offer online worship services.

*Carsten Splitt,
Publications Office of the EKD*

From Pastor Hahn

My dear Immanuel church family,

In your view, what motivates people?

What motivates people to do the things they do, to say the things they say, or, vice versa, not to do or say certain things? What, in your opinion, is at the core of human behavior? Or, put more personally, what motivates you?

I saw a cartoon that depicted a sales table, like you might find at an outdoors farmers market. On the table, side by side, sat four boxes full of wares. The sales table had a canvas roof over it. Attached to the canvas roof was a sign that indicated what was for sale: “Human Motivation – Pick One!”

The four boxes on the sales table were labeled “Love,” “Status,” “Money,” and “Morals.” A shopper stood in front of the sales table, pondering from which box to choose, muttering “Hmmm.”

In the second frame, the shopper walks away from the sales table with a big smile on his face. Behind him, the salesperson has a confused look on his face. The explanation: the buyer had ignored the “pick one” sign and had taken an item from each of the four boxes.

Human motivation is complex; at least that is what I think the cartoon wants to convey. And all too often, people are not aware of what truly motivates them.

Followers of Christ and believers in God, who are loved beyond all understanding and set free through the self-sacrifice of Christ, might want to claim “Love” as their key motivator. But, if we are truly honest, the evidence for that is not fully convincing. Christians have a lot of room to grow in the “love department.”

A colleague of mine recently observed that Christians should take a thick Sharpie pen and write on their face masks, “I wear this mask for your protection.” And then, of course, wear them. That would certainly be an interesting witness to Christian love.



I am not telling you anything new. You know that Christian love is always “other-directed” and “God-centered.” Be our efforts ever so humble, we do try and try again to love our neighbors as Christ loves us.

I see this love for the well-being of others, especially for the more vulnerable and challenged, in the information that the ELCA and our SE PA Synod are providing in regard to planning for an eventual return to in-person worship. One thing that is becoming clear to me is that, in this context, love means a lot of work!

I wish I could give you a concrete date for when we can return to in-person worship, but I cannot. However, our congregation council is beginning to study all the information available from reliable sources. The Lower Bucks Conference, too, is trying to share knowledge, solutions, and concerns. Please watch for future announcements.

Meanwhile, thank you for participating in worship, Bible study, “Table Talk,” team meetings, and Confirmation class over the phone or via the internet. Thank you, also, for mailing your offerings to the church office or giving online.

God’s Peace,

Pastor Hahn



ELCA presiding bishop issues pastoral message on COVID-19, racism, and white supremacy



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

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. —I Corinthians 12:12

May 13, 2020

Dear church,

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am encouraged by your resilience and creativity in our witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am also inspired by your generosity. Through the [ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund](#) and our [Daily Bread grants](#), we are providing critical support to struggling yet vital ministries across this church. Through [Lutheran Disaster Response International](#) we have intensified our accompaniment of global partners. *We are church together.*

This is a trying time for us all. At the same time, we know that a disproportionate burden of illness, death, discrimination and harassment falls on communities of color. This pandemic has exacerbated racism and racial inequities deeply entrenched in society and across the church. We see this in the growing anti-Asian racism and the disproportionate number of deaths in black, American Indian and Latinx communities. I have been learning from the leaders of the ELCA's [ethnic associations](#) how the [data](#) we see on the news is experienced in real life. I have listened to leaders of color share the impact of this pandemic on their communities — on their lives and on their ministries. These stories are difficult but important, so we are launching a special series on [LivingLutheran.org](#) to lift up these voices for us all to hear. We also seek to ensure that our COVID-19 response more effectively tends to the realities of racism and racial inequality. *We are church together.*

Recently, in cities across this country, we have seen horrifying anti-Semitic and white supremacist messages displayed during public protests against government orders that are intended to protect lives. No matter our politics or opinions about our elected leaders and their policies, all of us must come together on the basis of our church's commitments to condemn [racism](#) against indigenous people and people of color, white supremacy, sexism, and anti-Semitism whenever they occur. Whether our churches and communities are racially diverse or predominantly white, our work for racial and economic justice for all people is work for all of us. *We are church together.*

Just as God has joined us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism, we are joined to each other. Paul helps us to understand this by speaking of the one body of Christ, with many members. While this is always true, perhaps we feel it more acutely in this time of physical distancing. In our longing to be church together, let us be even more intentional in sharing with each other, easing each other's burdens, consoling each other in our fear and grief, condemning what is contrary to the gospel and living out our baptismal covenant "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

In partnership, The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

To learn more, visit:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: "COVID-19 in Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups"
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/racial-ethnic-minorities.html>

ELCA social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture"
<http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/RaceSS.pdf>

"Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent"
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf?_ga=2.192539306.1607846328.1589383529-706161550.1552512868

ELCA social policy resolution "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric"
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Condemnation_of_White_Supremacy_and_Racist_Rhetoric.pdf

ELCA social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action"
<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice>

"Declaration of the ELCA to Jewish Community"
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration_of_The_ELCA_To_The_Jewish_Community.pdf?_ga=2.71932119.591108520.1588614831-706161550.1552512868

<https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8037>

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America :

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

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CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Thank You

TO Johann, Karen and Marilyn for their gardening and planting ministry on the church campus.



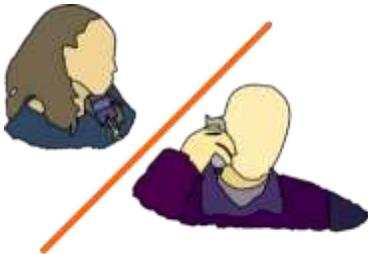
Bible Study—Have it your way!

If you are unable to participate in the Bible conversations scheduled for Wednesday morning and evening, but would like to study or talk about the Bible, find three (3) others for a time slot that works for all of you and let Pastor Hahn know. He will try to accommodate you! Have it your way!



"Table Talk"

In case you missed it: "Table Talk" are light conversations—either over the phone or the internet—between four members and friends of Immanuel. These are "getting to know each other" conversations; no heavy stuff.



Unless you have let the church office know that you DO NOT wish to participate, expect to be contacted. If you cannot participate, please decline or respond politely. The goal of this ministry is for our church family to stay connected and to increase the level of familiarity among members and friends.

Do You Have a Graduate in Your Family?

As in previous years, we would like to honor, celebrate with, and pray for the members and friends in our congregation who are graduating this year. We plan to bless our graduates on Sunday, June 28. Please send the name of your graduating family member to the church office at 215-464-1540 or office@ImmanuelPhilly.org) and include, if possible, what the graduate's next steps or plans are.



IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE: All services listed will be available LIVE. Check your emails for instructions.</p>	1	<p>2 9:30 AM Deans Meeting (remote)</p>	<p>3 Remote Bible Study 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM</p>	<p>4 7:00 PM Kids Connection Team (remote)</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM Member Care Team (remote)</p>	6
<p>7 Trinity Sunday 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Believe (remote)</p>	8	<p>9 4:00 PM Worship Planning Team (remote) 7:00 PM Christian Events Team (remote)</p>	<p>10 Remote Bible Study 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM</p>	<p>11 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference (remote)</p>	12	13
<p>14 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Believe (remote)</p>	<p>15 7:00 PM Council (remote)</p>	16	<p>17 Remote Bible Study 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM</p>	18	<p>19 7:00 PM Beer and Hymns (remote)</p>	20
<p>21 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	22	23	<p>24 Remote Bible Study 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM</p>	25	26	27
<p>28 4th Sunday after Pentecost Graduate Sundar 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service</p>	29	30				