

MARCH 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

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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Please remove the
40 Days of Prayer Calendar
from the center of the newsletter
and have it handy for daily use.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Saturday, March 14, 2020
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Doors open at 6:00 PM

Annual Ham Supper
Saturday, March 21, 2020
3:00 - 7:00 PM

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Gottesdienst-- Wer dient wem?

Was für Gründe gibt es, den Gottesdienst zu besuchen? Es gibt viele gute und verschiedene Gründe. "Hören" wir doch vier Menschen zu, die bei *Kirchenjahr-Evangelisch.de* zu Worte kamen:

Sabine S. aus Hannover beispielsweise möchte, dass ihre kleine Tochter positiv durchs Leben geht und Werte wie Nächstenliebe und Rücksicht lernt.



Gottesdienst in der Weidenkirche in Pappelheim

Jan aus Nürnberg trifft gerne seine Kumpels – auch am Sonntagabend, und **Helga M. aus Leipzig** freut sich jedes Wochenende auf die Gemeinschaft in der Kirche – und auf den anschließenden Kirchenkaffee.

Holger Z. aus München möchte einen Impuls für die kommende Woche mitnehmen und diskutiert hinterher gerne noch mit der Pfarrerin über die Predigt.

Vier Menschen, vier verschiedene Erwartungen an den Gottesdienst. Woche für Woche besuchen in Deutschland etwa 900.000 Menschen einen evangelischen Gottesdienst.

Die Gründe dafür sind so unterschiedlich wie die Menschen selbst: Ausrichtung für die neue Woche, gemeinsames Feiern und Singen, Begegnung mit Gott und immer wieder das Erlebnis der Gemeinschaft unter Mitchristen.

Millionen von Menschen besuchen in Deutschland jährlich einen Gottesdienst an Heiligabend. Gottesdienste zur Taufe und zur Trauung sind für viele Menschen wichtige Daten in der Familiengeschichte.

Ein Gottesdienst ist ein komplexes Gesamtkunstwerk. Er folgt einer klug durchdachten und jahrhundertlang tradierten Dramaturgie. Er inszeniert die Grundfragen des Glaubens wie Zweifel, Hoffnung, Dank, Klage und Bitte. Es ist Zwiesprache zwischen Gott und den Menschen. Er ist Unterweisung, Lehre und Bibelstudium. Er nimmt traditionelle geschichtliche Ausdrucksformen ebenso auf wie moderne und zeitgenössische.

Was für Martin Luther und die Reformatoren das Wesen der Kirche ausmacht, ist (1) das Hören auf Gottes Wort und (2) das Empfangen der Sakramente. Dies geschieht in besonderer Weise im Gottesdienst.

Längst wird in der protestantischen Kirche Gottesdienst nicht mehr als Pflicht gegenüber Gott gesehen, eine Leistung, die ein Christ erbringen muss. Es ist vielmehr ein Bedürfnis, im Beten Hören und Singen Gott nahe zu kommen. Der Begriff Gottesdienst ist deshalb manchmal missverständlich.

**In erster Linie ist es Gott,
der den Menschen dient.**

In erster Linie ist es Gott, der den Menschen dient und sie mit seinem Wort und seiner Gegenwart bereichert. Dieser Dienst gilt auch den Menschen, die Gott noch nicht begegnet sind.

Aber auch der Mensch dient Gott – wenn er dankbar Gottes Dienst annimmt und ihm die Ehre gibt.

[Mehr bei www.Kirchenjahr-Evangelisch.de. If you are interested in an English version please contact Pastor Hahn.]

From Pastor Hahn:

“Who am I? And why am I here?” You may remember these questions as having been uttered by Admiral James Stockdale during the vice-presidential debate in 1992. (Stockdale was the running mate of Ross Perot on an independent ticket.)

Unfortunately, Stockdale was widely ridiculed for using this question in his opening remarks, because it seemed to capture his lack of television savvy during the debate.



But it is a good question— and it is a question that can be said to capture a lot of the season we call “Lent.” (Modeled after the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert wrestling with the devil, Lent comprises the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, not counting Sundays.)

Who are you? And why are you here?

There is more than one answer to those questions. One is captured by a bumper sticker that was popular a few years ago: “The one who dies with the most toys (= stuff) wins!” But that is not the answer of the Lutheran branch of the Christian Faith. You know the answers we give:

Baptized and beloved child of God – saint and sinner – minister – servant – a member of the Body of Christ – Christian.



And those descriptions of who we are, are connected to our purpose of being here

on earth. And, again, that is different than what our culture and society tell us.

One way to get a deeper understanding of both our identity and purpose was proposed by the Apostle Paul when he said, *“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 2:5).

In worship during Lent - on Sundays and especially on Wednesdays - we will explore in greater detail what that means and how we might do that.

I hope and pray you will make every effort to be part of this spiritual exploration.

In Christ

Pastor Hahn

Study the Bible! Wednesdays at 10 AM & 7 PM

A good way to enrich your spiritual journey through Lent is to participate in Bible study. Each week stands on its own. No advance knowledge is necessary. You can come and just listen, if you like. Give it a try!

Worship in Lent! Wednesdays in March at 11:30 AM

Deepen your spiritual walk through the season of Lent by participating in the specially-themed mid-week services. Each service is about 35 minutes and is followed by a light lunch.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, with worship services at 11:30 AM (followed by a light lunch) and 7:30 PM (preceded by a light supper.)

Be part of the “40 Days of Prayer!”

During Lent, you are invited to add a special dimension to your prayer life. Use the attached prayer calendar and pray each day by name for the members and friends of Immanuel as well as public servants and worthy agencies and projects that are listed.

Give Alms and Fast!

In addition to worship, Bible study, and prayer, two more practices enrich the spiritual journey through Lent: fasting (or giving something up for Lent) and almsgiving (giving extra gifts to people in need). See more information on page 6 about Immanuel’s Lenten gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

You are invited to:

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation
on Sunday, **MARCH 1, 2020**
immediately following the combined worship service
at 10:30 AM**

There will be reports about the church's ministry, including a financial report and a vote on the 2020 Ministry Spending Plan.

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 Barbara Hannon.

The Immanuel Church Council recognizes that the number of members required to serve on Council needs to be changed. The Constitution which was signed in 1956 requires 15 members which was based on the number of active members at that time with a quorum of 10 to conduct business. There have been several Council meetings when due to illness, travel, or scheduling conflicts, no quorum was available to conduct business. Immanuel also needs leaders for ministry teams and committees and therefore a limited number of leaders are available.

The Church Council recommends for the year 2020 and until the next Annual Meeting, the minimum number of Council members be changed from 15 to 10. This will allow for a two thirds majority of seven members needed for a quorum.

IT'S A BOY

Congratulations to the parents and extended family of **Aidan Joseph Healy** who was born on January 14th at 7:10 PM weighing 9 lbs. and measuring 21.5".

His proud grandma is Ellen Ragan.

REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time begins at
2:00 AM on Sunday, March 8.
Remember to turn your clocks
AHEAD one hour.

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



We extend our Christian Sympathy to Raymond Hofelder, whose sister passed away unexpectedly on January 30, 2020. Services were held at Immanuel on Saturday,

February 12. Please keep Raymond and his family in your prayers.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **Kim Thalheimer** who passed away February 4, 2020, at the age of 87. Services were held at Immanuel on Thursday, February 20. Please keep Kim's family and friends in your prayers.



**St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Saturday, March 14, 2020
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

Immanuel invites members, friends and neighbors of our church family to a special celebration of this holiday. Join us for a safer and more meaningful St. Patrick's Day. The evening will include an Irish beef stew dinner, entertainment, music and more!

Since we will be providing a meal, please RSVP by either calling the office at 215-464-1540 or make your reservation at HillHappenings.org by **March 9th.***

There is no charge for this event, however, feel free to donate a nonperishable food item(s) for the Somerton Food Bank.

We hope you can join us for this fun event.

Spread the word!

Invite a friend!

Bring a neighbor!

Don't forget to wear your **GREEN!**

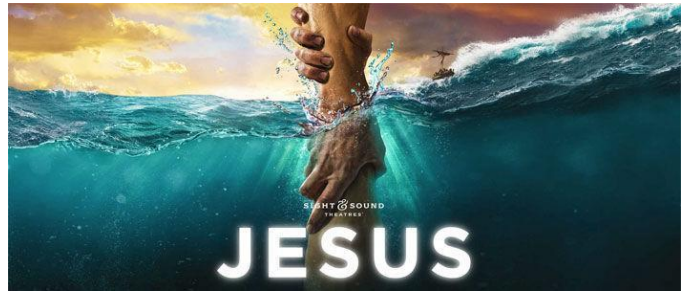


*** We require an RSVP for this event**

Please use the contact section at HillHappenings.org to RSVP, with your name, along with the names of any other people who will be attending, an email address, a contact phone number and number of people attending.

MOVIE TRIP

Once again! Sight and Sound Theatre is showing a movie in the theaters.



"Jesus", which recently ended its two year run at Sight & Sound Theaters in Lancaster, will come to movie theaters April 7, 9 and 11 in 2020.

Filed in front of a live audience, Sight & Sound's "Jesus", tells the story of Jesus through the people whose lives he changed forever, from his apostles to everyday people.

Please join the Member Care Committee that are planning to attend the evening show on Tuesday, April 7th, at Neshaminy AMC Theatre.

Reserve your spot soon, seating is limited!

Contact Judy Friedman at 267-343-3606.

GERMAN CIRCLE

Out next meeting will be March 1st at 7:00 PM.

We will be discussing the Ham Supper. Please try to attend this meeting.

Don't forget to ask members of Immanuel to bake cakes for the Sweet Shop, also donations of crafts, to the Bazaar.

Hope to see you on March 1st.

Ruth Muggler

HAM SUPPER



The **Ham Supper** will take place on Saturday, **April 14, 2020**, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

We would like to have cakes for the Sweet Shop and donations for the Bazaar, such as crafts or slightly used articles.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

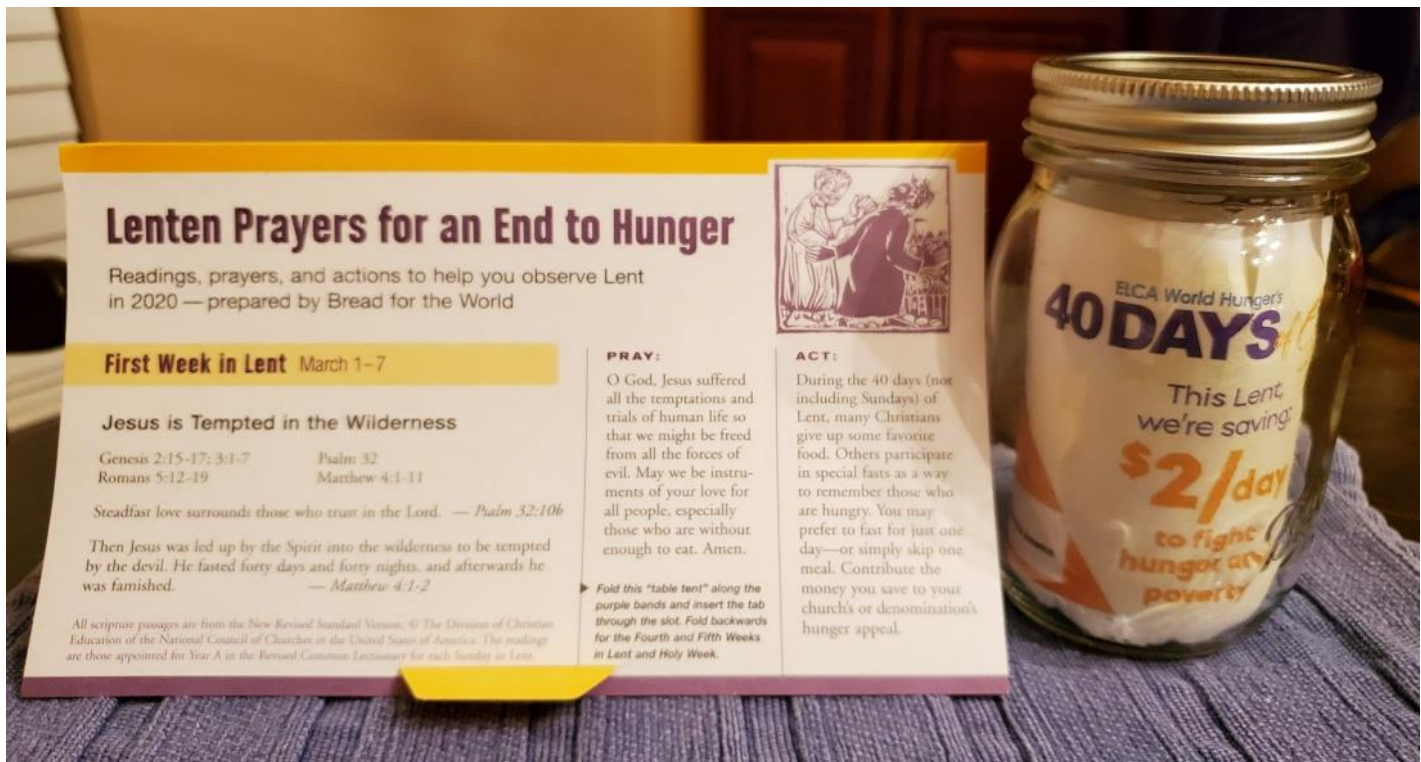
ELCA WORLD HUNGER 40 DAYS OF GIVING Journey through Lent

ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

The world provides enough food for all, but millions of people around the world face chronic hunger.

This Lent we are saving for "A Just World Where All Are Fed."

The World Food Bank estimates 766 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day.



Please consider supporting the work of ELCA World Hunger beyond your typical offerings. Consider using a 40 Days of giving coin jar. We will have a jar for you to use, or you may have a mason jar we gave you previously in years past. We suggest \$2.00 a day to fight hunger and poverty. Jars and devotional booklets will be available March 1, the First Sunday in Lent.



**LINUS DAY – SATURDAY, APRIL 25
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Linus Workshop. Everyone is welcome. Any questions, contact Barbara Hannon or Alma Dallas.

Thank you for your gifts to the Somerton Food Bank on Super Bowl Sunday. We were able to donate more than 150 cans of soup.

The following thank you was received from the ELCA



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

January 27, 2020

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$4,359.00 to the ministries of the ELCA.

As a church, we share the vision of a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and all creation, With your gifts to ELCA ministries, you are putting God's love into action – living faithfully, witnessing boldly, serving joyfully and giving humbly.

Your generosity embodies God's grace by equipping leaders, positioning communities to grow and spreading the good news of Christ's love far and wide. Thank you for your commitment to the Gospel.

Your gifts: ELCA Good Gifts	\$ 2,829.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 800.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	<u>\$ 550.00</u>
	\$ 4,359.00

With gratitude,
Rachel Ward
Executive for Development

IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>First Sunday in Lent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM</p> <p>Combined Service with Holy Communion followed by Annual Congregational Meeting</p> <p>6:30 PM Evening Service with Holy Communion 7:00 PM German Circle 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY believe</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Christian Education Team</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Lenten Service with soup lunch 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time</p> <p>9:30 AM English Service 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY believe</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>4:00 PM Worship Planning Team</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Lenten Service with soup lunch 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>German Language Diploma Exam (Deutsches Sprachdiplom)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 Member Care Team</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS</p> <p>6:30 PM St. Patrick's Day Celebration (See page 5)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:30 AM English Service with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service with Holy Communion 5:00 PM Kids Connection 6:30 PM Evening Service with Holy Communion 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY believe</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM Church Council</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Lenten Service with soup lunch 12:00 Noon Frauenverein 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 AM Deans Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AM Newsletter Mailing</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS</p> <p>3:00 PM Ham Supper (See page 5)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:30 AM English Service 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY believe</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance Team</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Lenten Service with soup lunch 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:30 AM English Service 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY believe</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Try these classic Lenten practices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prayer (e.g. "40 Days") 2. Worship (e.g. Wednesdays) 3. Devotions (e.g. Bible study) 4. Almsgiving (e.g. Hunger Relief) 5. Fasting (Giving up something) 			