

# MAY 2020

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL 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**

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### **For scientists and researchers**

Gracious Lord, Creator of the cosmos, Maker of all things visible and invisible, who in holy Wisdom orders and sustains all things in wondrous and grand diversity and splendor. In Your lavish grace, you have given Man the gifts of reason and senses to plumb the wondrous mysteries of Your creation.

Bless those whose vocation is the study of viruses, diseases, and their cure and containment. Grant them wisdom, perseverance, and clarity that their efforts would serve to protect and preserve life and increase knowledge and understanding. With knowledge comes responsibility as well as fear and humility. Teach us to use our knowledge in wisdom and faithfulness. Protect our scientists and medical researchers from any harm or danger that their work might entail, and grant your benevolent blessing; for Your Name's sake, we pray.  
*(From: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hacienda Heights, CA)*



# IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

## Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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](mailto:PastorHahnILC@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Diane Burgess 215-464-1540 [office@immanuelphilly.org](mailto: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 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	7:00 PM	Barbara Hannon
Christian Events Team	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	Eileen Szentjobi
Finance Team	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	7:00 PM	David W. Cook
Frauenverein	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	12:00 Noon	Marianne Haug
German Circle/Deutscher Kreis	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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	4:00 PM	Marianne Haug
Youth Group	TBA		Chris Blankenhorn and Eileen Szentjobi

## NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL STAFF

Diane Burgess David W. Cook Pastor Norbert F. Hahn Marianne Haug

Send information or questions to [IELC.newsletter@comcast.net](mailto: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 tith (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

Due to the current health emergency and to promote “physical distancing” to help limit the spread of the virus, there have been no worship services or gatherings on the Immanuel Church campus. This practice will continue until further notice. We will, however, continue to care for one another online and over the phone, rather than in person.

## Worship “from home” on Sundays



If you have email, check your email for the online links the worship service.

**To worship by phone,**

**9:30 AM English service:** Call 1-646-992-2010 and use the access code 793 807 263 # (be sure to enter “#” at the end).

**10 AM German service:** Call 1-646-992-2010 and use the access code 790 817 276 # (be sure to enter “#” at the end).

**6:30 PM evening service:** Call 1-646-992-2010 and use the access code 797 233 232 # (be sure to enter “#” at the end).

Dial the numbers about five minutes before the service begins.

If you have to pay for long distance calls (most cell plans and land line plans offer free long distance) and paying for the call to participate in worship is a financial hardship for you, please contact Pastor Hahn for confidential assistance.

## Online Bible Study and Telephone Bible Study

**Online Bible Study** and **Telephone Bible Study** has begun. This is happening in small groups of four to six persons at a time. Various groups are being offered, at various times. – **Sign up through the church office by phone (215-464-1540) or email ([office@immanuelphilly.org](mailto:office@immanuelphilly.org)).**



# THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has mailed their offering to the church office or donated online.

## FROM Pastor Hahn

My dear church family,

**The Covid-19 pandemic** has changed a lot for a lot of people--although what is called “social location,” i.e. your place in the world, can make a HUGE difference on how you are affected. For example, I think of our members who work as frontline health care givers as nurses, EMTs, and aides. They are most certainly more affected compared to me who can work safely in my office.

**It also makes a great difference** if you can count on retirement benefits and/or Social Security checks coming in, along with still having Medicare, versus having been laid off and either not receiving unemployment benefits or having to wait for them while you also may have lost your employer-related health care.

**The impact of “social location”** becomes especially clear when we see news reports of the wealthy fleeing to their private islands on their private jets with private doctors and then see overcrowded refugee camps with minimal, if any, medical care.



**“Where is God in all this suffering?”** Quite understandably, the question has been asked more often recently. And a lot of people, most a lot smarter than I am, have tried to answer it.

**As I wrestled with the question,** I remembered a brief statement by Christian theologian and author, Frederick Buechner:

- “God is all-powerful.
- God is all-good.
- Terrible things happen.

You can reconcile any two of these propositions with each other, but you can't reconcile all three.”

**Buechner’s explanation** and his general dismissal of many attempts to explain suffering (and the evil so often connected to it) don’t fit into this space, but I can share his conclusion: *“Christianity ultimately offers no theoretical solution at all. It merely points to the cross and says that, practically speaking, there is no evil so dark and so obscene—not even this—but that God can turn it to good.”*

**If this answer does not** fully satisfy you, you are not alone. I, too, want more. But it is a good starting point. Amidst the mismanagement, the disinformation, the profiteering, the hoarding, the suffering, and the dying that are part of this pandemic, let’s look for the instances where good is being done—especially where someone is going the extra mile, where people volunteer to do good, where love and care and compassion are being poured out. There, I am certain, we will begin to find the fingerprints of God.

**Then, let us look** on how you and I can do good, give love, provide care, and extend compassion. And, then, by looking in the mirror, you will begin to see the fingerprints of God looking back at you.

You are in Lyn’s and my prayers. Please keep us in yours. In Christ,

*Pastor Hahn*



Sunday worship  
on-site worship participants

# Beistand, Trost und Hoffnung

*(Assistance, comfort and hope)*

„Die gegenwärtigen Tage sind geprägt von der krisenhaften Gesamtsituation, die durch die Verbreitung des Corona-Virus hervorgerufen wird. Das Bemühen, die Verbreitung dieser Krankheit zu verlangsamen, führt zu drastischen Maßnahmen. Jede und jeder von uns ist konkret betroffen. ...

Wie alle unverschuldete Not, die über die menschliche Gemeinschaft kommt, so kennt auch diese Krise keine Gerechtigkeit. Sie trifft die einen nur ganz am Rande, die anderen, oft genug die Schwachen, aber mit aller Härte. Deshalb, aber auch wegen der notwendigen Isolation der Menschen, sind das Füreinander-Dasein und die Solidarität in dieser Zeit so unabdingbar, um das humane Angesicht unserer Gesellschaft nicht zu entstellen oder gar zu zerstören.

Unser großer Dank gilt allen im Gesundheitswesen, Ärztinnen und Ärzten, Krankenpflegerinnen und Krankenpflegern und Freiwilligen, die oft bis zur Erschöpfung dafür sorgen, dass die Erkrankten die bestmögliche Versorgung erhalten....

Gerade weil in diesen Tagen viele Grenzen und Barrieren zwischen Menschen errichtet werden müssen, dürfen die Grenzen nicht in den Herzen hochgezogen werden. In einer solch existenziellen Krise, in der auch die gesellschaftlichen Institutionen spürbar an ihre Grenzen stoßen, kommt es auf jede und jeden Einzelnen an. Aber nicht, weil sich jeder dann selbst der Nächste ist und jeder für sich allein kämpft, sondern weil jedes offene Ohr, jedes freundliche Wort und jede helfende Hand besonders zählen und viel bedeuten.

Es tut in der Seele gut zu sehen, wie viel gelebte Humanität es angesichts dieser Krise in unserer Gesellschaft gibt! An vielen Orten haben sich spontan Freiwillige bereit erklärt, Einkäufe für

ältere oder kranke Nachbarn zu erledigen oder Kinder zu betreuen, deren Eltern weiterhin ihrem Beruf nachgehen müssen.

Auch in unseren Gemeinden gibt es viele, die mit Telefongesprächen, E-Mails und anderen Medien den sozialen Kontakt aufrechterhalten und die Gemeinschaft stärken....

Als Christen sind wir der festen Überzeugung: Krankheit ist keine Strafe Gottes – weder für Einzelne, noch für ganze Gesellschaften, Nationen, Kontinente oder gar die ganze Menschheit.

Krankheiten gehören zu unserer menschlichen Natur als verwundbare und zerbrechliche Wesen.

## Dennoch können

Krankheiten und Krisen sehr wohl den Glauben an die Weisheit und Güte Gottes und auch an ihn selbst erschüttern. Krankheiten und Krisen stellen uns

Menschen vor Fragen, über die wir nicht leicht hinweggehen können. Auch wir Christen sind mit diesen Fragen nach dem Sinn menschlichen Leids konfrontiert und haben keine einfachen Antworten darauf.

Die biblische Botschaft und der christliche Erlösungs-glaube sagen uns Menschen jedenfalls zu: Gott ist ein Freund des Lebens. Er liebt uns Menschen und leidet mit uns. Gott will das Unheil nicht. Nicht das Unheil hat darum das letzte Wort, sondern das Heil, das uns von Gott verheißen ist....“ (Mehr bei [www.ekd.de](http://www.ekd.de))

Ein gemeinsames Wort von: *Landesbischof Dr. Heinrich-Bedford-Strohm, Ratsvorsitzender der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) -- Bischof Dr. Georg Bätzing, Vorsitzender der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz – Metropolit Augustinos, Vorsitzender der Orthodoxen Bischofskonferenz in Deutschland*

For an English version, please contact Pr. Hahn.





## CONNECTING WITH OTHERS



### **The Member Care Team**

invites you to participate in a “Virtual Happy/Coffee hour” with a few others from your church family.

The point is to enjoy a beverage of your choice and to visit for about 15 minutes with a few other members of your church family either over the phone or over the internet. After all, the church is the people, not the building.

**To participate** contact the church office before 5-5, 5 PM by phone at 215-464-1540 or send an email to [office@ImmanuelPhilly.org](mailto:office@ImmanuelPhilly.org).

*You cannot do all of the good the world needs,  
but the world needs all of the good you can do.*

*-Old Farmer's Almanac*

*A bend in the road is not the end of the road . . .  
unless you fail to make the turn.*

*-Old Farmer's Almanac*

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## Immanuel German School

When we left German school back on March 7, we were all thinking, yes, this Covid-19 virus is terrible, but thank goodness, it's somewhere else. Five days later, on Thursday, March 12, our students completed the written portion of the German Language Diploma and were scheduled to complete the spoken portion on Saturday, March 21. Alas, in the meantime all the schools were ordered closed. Hence, in the midst of toilet paper jokes and mortal fear, we had to devise a plan B, where there was no plan B. Consequently, we recaptured two unused snow days and met with the faculty, online, of course, and began planning for IGS Online.

Since then, each Saturday, 17 of our 18 classes have been meeting online. The faculty informs us that our attendance is slightly up from normal Saturdays. Teachers are teaching and students are learning. Since we are not a regular school, our Zoom sessions were originally limited to 40-minute segments. Not a problem, said one of the parents, who then offered to pay for the extended version for all 17 teachers.

Bleibt alle gesund, Stay Healthy

Del, Jeanette, John and Marianne



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b>  <b>All services listed will be available LIVE.</b>  <b>Check your emails for instructions.</b>  <b>(See page 3)</b></p>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (remote)
<b>3</b> <b>4th Sunday of Easter</b>  9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Believe (remote)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Remote Bible Study  7:00 PM Remote Bible Study	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Deans Meeting (remote)	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Member Care Team (remote)	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (remote)
<b>10</b> <b>5th Sunday of Easter</b>  9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Believe (remote)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Remote Bible Study  7:00 PM Remote Bible Study	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference (remote)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (remote)
<b>17</b> <b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>  9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Believe (remote)  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM Council (remote)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 AM Remote Bible Study  7:00 PM Remote Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (remote)
<b>24</b> <b>7th Sunday of Easter</b>  9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Believe (remote)	<b>25</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM Remote Bible Study  7:00 PM Remote Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (remote)
<b>31</b> <b>PENTECOST</b>  9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:15 PM What Lutherans Believe (remote)						