

NOVEMBER 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

In This Issue

CONNECTING WITH GOD

Greetings from Pastor Hahn	Pg. 2
Worship Schedule for November	Pg. 3
Good-Fortune Bible	Pg. 4

CONNECTING WITH OTHER PEOPLE

Christmas Drive Thru	Pg. 5
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Project Linus	Pg. 5
ELCA Thank You	Pg. 5
Immanuel German School	Pg. 6
November Focus _ Seafarers Ministry	Pg. 6
Calendar	Pg. 7

"ONLINE THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION" SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 5:00 PM

Over the phone or via the internet, you can join Immanuel's online Thanksgiving celebration. Enjoy a delightful mix of music and songs, stories, fun facts, a couple of unusual recipes, some humor, prayers, and some Holy Scripture.



The login information will be published in the weekly E-news and the inserts with the worship folders. You can also call or email the church office.

CONNECTING WITH GOD

From Pastor Hahn

My dear church family,

Can you believe it? We are just a few weeks away from a new church year. November 29 is the First Sunday in Advent.

By then, it can be assumed, people's attention will have shifted from the election to Christmas.

(Several stores are already stocked with Christmas wares.)

A lot of things deserved our attention in 2020.

Unfortunately, most were overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the horrific pain and suffering it caused in terms of illness, death, unemployment, and poverty. (And, as infection rates are rising again, we may not be out of the woods yet.)

One of the items that escaped the attention it deserved, at least in my humble opinion, is the 500th anniversary of a publication by Martin Luther. In 1520, Martin Luther published a treatise entitled "The Freedom of a Christian."

In commenting on the treatise, ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton said: "We are living in uncertain and difficult times. Amid the pandemic of COVID-19 and the ongoing pandemic of racism and xenophobia, our communities and world are ravaged by illness, death, and injustice. Fear, grief, anger, and strife are within and around us. We are tempted to turn inward in despair."

She continues: "Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther wrote a treatise titled 'The Freedom of a Christian'. In it, he offered his most compelling summary of Christian life: In Christ we are

completely free and at the same time completely bound in love and service to our neighbors. For Christians such as you and me, this has been our Lutheran way of telling the Christian story for 500 years. At the heart of our Lutheran theological tradition, we find the antidote to our despair."



I feel nudged, probably by the Holy Spirit, and encouraged by the words of Bishop Eaton to learn more about the spiritual wisdom contained in Luther's treatise.

Please join me in exploring it during Advent and, if necessary, beyond. Please leave a message or an email

with the church office, if you would like to participate.

Please keep me in your prayers. You are in mine!

Pastor Hahn

Thank You

FROM Pastor Hahn: "I am very grateful for the cards and gifts shared with me during Pastor Appreciation month (October). Your kindness, generosity, and encouragement mean a lot to me."

TO Matt DeMarco, Barbara Hannon, and Lyn Hahn who are Pastor's primary worship assistants, helping with preparing and executing four online and outdoor services each Sunday.

TO the members and friends of Immanuel for their faithfulness in online and outdoor worship and in mailing in their offerings.

Worship in November

The Line-Up

9:19 AM - English-language worship—ONLINE
10:15 AM - OUTDOOR worship (Nov. 1+15+29 in English, Nov. 8+22 in German)
11:11 AM - German-language worship—ONLINE
6:30 PM – English-language worship--ONLINE

Special Worship Occasions

November 1 is “All Saints Sunday”

In the services, we will commemorate the saints who belonged to our church family who joined the Church Triumphant this past year. We will also include in the prayers persons who are deceased but still have a special place in the hearts of our members and friends.

If you would like to have a special person included in the prayers please let the church office know by phone or email by noon on Friday, October 30th. (It is okay to leave a message on the answering machine. Please, no more than three names.)

November 22 is “Thanksgiving Sunday”

Please read the upcoming weekly E-news and the inserts to the worship folders about information on how you can make Thanksgiving Sunday more meaningful for you at home.

Please submit, via email or phone, to the church office the names of persons (living or dead) for whom you are especially thankful. They will be lifted in the prayers. You may also include special events or experiences for which you are especially grateful.

November 29 is “The 1st Sunday in Advent”

Please mark your calendars! The new Church Year is beginning with the 1st Sunday in Advent on Nov. 29. The tone of worship will reflect this change as we look forward to Christ’s Coming.



Q and A

Question: What do your car radio and Holy Communion have in common?

Answer: They are both key ingredients in Immanuel’s outdoor worship services!

The outdoor Holy Communion services offered during August, September and October on the Immanuel campus were well received and attended. Between 25 and 40 individuals participated. Only once did the weather force the service to be shortened a bit.

As we move into November, we will supplement our outdoor sound system with a radio transmitter. This means you can stay in your car, turn on your car radio (we will tell the frequency when you arrive) and listen to the music and voice in the comfort of your car. (If necessary, you can turn on your engine for a bit to heat up your car.)

You will have to lower your car window a bit when the Communion assistant brings Communion to your car and the usher comes by with the offering basket.

You may want to print out from the Friday email the worship folder or bring the one mailed to you via USPS. You can also read the worship folder on your smart phone.

Glücksbibel

Neulich beim Asiaten, Essen abholen. "Mögen Sie Glüh Kä?" Ich denke im ersten Moment, das sei ein asiatisches Gericht, so wie Gäng Gari Gai oder Pat Tai. Es dauerte eine Weile und einige weitere schwer verständliche Erklärungen, bis ich darauf kam: Glückskekse! Ja klar. Die Kinder lieben sie, auch wenn die meisten Sprüche darauf schon sehr platt sind.

Die Kekse gibt's aber nicht nur mit solchen Sprüchen – sondern auch mit Bibelversen Die findet man eher nicht beim Chinesen um die Ecke, es gibt sie aber beim Bibellesebund zu kaufen. Ganz normale Glückskekse – nur eben mit einem Bibelvers in der Mitte.

"Mittendrin ein Wort von Gott", so sind die Zellophanhüllen um die Kekse beschriftet. Und da wir jetzt ja auf Weihnachten zugehen: Es gibt sie auch in der Geschmacksrichtung "Weihnachten". Also, nicht mit Zimt im Teig, sondern mit weihnachtlichen Bibelversen.

Erinnert mich ein bisschen an den Propheten Hesekeil, der von Gott den Auftrag bekam, eine Schriftrolle zu essen – quasi, um sich deren Inhalt ganz wörtlich zu verinnerlichen. Von den Bibelkeksen jedoch sollten Sie besser nur den Teig außen rum essen, die "Schriftrolle" in der Mitte aber lediglich lesen. Ist dann doch besser für die Gesundheit.

Cooler Idee für alle möglichen Veranstaltungen, vom Kindergottesdienst bis zum Seniorennachmittag. Ob ich sie allerdings beim Konfirmanden-Abendmahl einsetzen würde, so wie eine Kollegin, die davon berichtete, wie begeistert die Konfirmandinnen und Konfirmanden von "ihren" jeweiligen Bibelversen waren – das muss ich mir wirklich noch gründlich überlegen. Wo und wie auch immer: Ich wünsche Ihnen guten Appetit beim Bibel-Essen.

Von: Heiko Kuschel. Mehr bei Evangelisch.de

Good-Fortune Bible

I was picking up Chinese take-out and was asked: "Fo Shun Kooky?" First I thought that might be a new menu item being advertised to me. After climbing over some communication hurdles, I realized I was being asked if I cared for fortune cookies. My kids love them, even if most of the sayings inside them are fairly trite.

In Germany, the organization "Bibellesebund" builds on the fortune cookie idea and provides cookies that have sayings from the Bible inside.

On the clear plastic packaging it says "inside: A Word from God." Now, with Christmas approaching, people can order Christmas-flavored cookies. It's not a gingerbread cookie but a regular cookie with a saying

inside that pertains to Christmas.

What comes to mind is the prophet, Hezekiah, who was ordered by God to literally eat an entire scroll of Holy Scripture—thereby completely internalizing the Word of God. It is probably better for our health if we only eat the actual cookie and read the little "scripture scroll" inside the cookie.

Come to think of it: it is a great idea for all sorts of events like children's church or the seniors' group. I am not sure I am ready to follow a colleague of mine who used them for Holy Communion, although she reported that the confirmands were quite excited to each have his or her own Bible



saying. Well, whatever path you choose. Enjoy feasting on the Word of God!



CONNECTING WITH OTHERS



**SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020
(Rain, Snow or Shine)
5:00 TO 7:00 PM**

Immanuel is planning a Christmas Drive-Thru Event on December 5th for the community as well as our Immanuel family and friends. This event will be fun and educational for both adults and children. There will be Christmas music, lights and displays to enjoy! Join us as you travel "On the Road to Bethlehem" and see a live nativity! We will also be collecting donations for the food bank. You will need to register on www.hillhappenings.org for this event or call the office.

While we are in the planning stages, we are looking to borrow large, outdoor decorations for the day; inflatables would be ideal. Lights that can be used to illuminate the trees would also be welcomed. If you have anything you think could add to our event, please contact Judy Friedman, Lori Ojeda, Chris Blankenhorn or Marion Morris. We will be happy to pick up and return your items.

"Actors" will also be needed for many positions, such as Mary, Joseph, an angel and some shepherds. Please let us know as soon as possible if you can lend us decorations or are willing to be an actor. We need assistance from our congregational members to make this event a success!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



On October 16th, fifty-five, (55) blankets were donated to the Linus Project.

Many "Thanks and Sincere Appreciation" to the following ladies who made this possible:
Pat Foley, Judy Friedman, Barbara Hannon, Helen Knoechel, Gerlinde Kraft, Anneliese Mueller, Janice Murset, and Elaine Pflieger.

The Linus Project is an ongoing project - if you would like to help, have questions, or need yarn, please do not hesitate to contact Barbara Hannon or Alma Dallas.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Safe Holiday Season -
Wear a Mask.

God's Blessings.

ELCA THANK YOU

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,903.36 to ELCA World Hunger.Your generosity is getting to the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education and peace and Justice. Through your gift you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

The Rev. Robin Brown
Mission Funding Director, Congregations

IMMANUEL GERMAN SCHOOL



We are happy to report that the Immanuel German School opened as scheduled on September 12, via Google Classroom. Although our enrollment is down somewhat over previous years—there were no registrations for Pre-K or

Kindergarten—we were up and running and delivering instruction in the German language and culture for our 46th year!

This summer four of our students were able to finally complete the oral test (mündliche Prüfung) of the Deutsches Sprachdiplom (German Language Diploma). We congratulate these students on reaching another milestone in their language learning.

In spite of the pandemic, we were easily able to fill two vacancies in the teaching staff: Martina Oborna Steves in level II, and Dr. Simone Schlichting-Artur, Prof. of German at Drexel University for Level 8/9 DSD I.

We were thrilled to receive a donation in the amount of \$1,500 from St. John's German Lutheran Church in Reading, PA. Their Congregational Council was concerned about the possible impact of the pandemic on the family finances of our students.

Hannah Rosmus, the student with the highest score on last year's Advanced Placement Exam, is currently completing her junior year in high school living with her grandparents in Germany and attending the *Gymnasium* from which her father graduated.

Last but not least, Dr. Del Hausman was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

SUPPORT THE SEAFARERS MINISTRY!

(1) Sponsor a "Ditty Bag" for \$10!

In the past, the members and friends of Immanuel have donated health care, personal hygiene, and safety items that would then be assembled into "ditty bags," bags given as Christmas gifts to



seafarers who arrived in the port of Philadelphia around Christmas time. Many of them don't see their families for months

on end, and the bags are a practical way of sharing the love of God with them.

This year, with safety a priority, you are encouraged to "sponsor" one or more bags for \$10.00 each. A small group of volunteers will then purchase the items and assemble the bags.

Please send a check for the amount of bags you would like to sponsor (\$10 per bag) to the church office. Make the check out to "Immanuel Lutheran Church" with "ditty bags" on the memo line. You can also give online through our website.

(2) Bid on a special Gift Basket!

Five special, one-of-kind gift baskets are ready to be auctioned off for this good cause: a wine basket, a beer basket, a Christmas basket, a German treats basket, and a meat basket.



Each basket is valued at \$30 - \$35 dollars. Bidding starts at \$35 dollars. You can bid by emailing or calling the church office. Just give your name, the

basket/s you like to bid on, and the amount of your bid. Bidding will end on November 30.

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NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends All Saints Day 9:19 AM English Service (Remote) 10:15 AM English Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German Service (Remote) 6:30 PM English Service (Remote) 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe(Remote)	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote) 7:00 PM "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote)	5 9:30 AM Committee of Deans (Remote) 7:00 PM Christian Events Team	6	7 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
8 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost 9:19 AM English service (Remote) 10:15 AM German Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German service (Remote) 6:30 PM English Service (Remote) 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)	9	10 7:00 PM Finance Team (Remote)	11 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote) 7:00 PM "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote)	12 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference (Remote)	13	14 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
15 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service (Remote) 10:15 AM English Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German Service (Remote) 6:30 PM English Service (Remote) 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)	16 7:00 PM Congregation Council (remote)	17	18 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote) 7:00 PM "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote)	19	20	21 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote) 5:00 PM An Online Thanksgiving"
Newsletter Deadline						
22 Thanksgiving/Harvest Home Sunday 9:19 AM English service (Remote) 10:15 AM German Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German service (Remote) 6:30 PM English Service (Remote) 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)	23	24 IGS - Written test for the DSD II	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 1st Sunday in Advent 9:19 AM English Service (Remote)\n 10:15 AM English Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German Service (Remote) 6:30 PM English Service (Remote) 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (Remote)	30	31	PLEASE NOTE: All Worship Services will be broadcast LIVE, through ZOOM, unless noted (Outdoor). Check your email or the announcements in your worship folder for instructions.			