

# OCTOBER 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

The Church is not a building.  
It's the people.

- Acts 8:3
- Acts 12:5
- 1 Cor. 3:9
- 1 Peter 2:5



## Immanuel Newsletter GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

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## NEW WORSHIP TIMES FOR OCTOBER

Online English Service:  
**9:19 AM**

Outside Communion Service:  
**10:15 AM**

Online German Service:  
**11:11 AM**

Outside English Service:  
**5:15 PM**

# IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## CONNECTING WITH GOD

FROM Pastor Hahn

### “Your Brain Has A Mind of Its Own”

I recently learned something about how the human brain works that was truly astonishing. The story involved surgeons and how they can differ when asked to explain the very same surgical procedure to their patients. This procedure has a success rate of 90%. In other words, 9 out of 10 patients survive the surgery and live.

Conversely, of course, the same procedure then has a 10% failure rate, and 1 out of 10 patients do not survive. It is the same procedure looked at from two different vantage points.

Now the interesting thing is this: When doctors present this procedure to patients from the perspective of the 10% failure rate, fewer surgeons recommend it to their patients. On the other hand, doctors who present this procedure from the survival rate of 90% do recommend that their patients undergo this surgery at a far greater percentage.

Weird. Wouldn't you agree? The same procedure, the same statistics, yet fewer recommendations for surgery when doctors approach it from the loss perspective.

What is going on? Apparently, it all has to do with how our brains are wired. It seems we humans are basically prone to something called “loss aversion.” On an unconscious level, outside of our awareness,

our brains set us up to resist anything that looks like a loss to us. And when that loss aversion, that resistance to what seems like a loss, does enter our consciousness, it frequently comes out in non-rational, emotionally charged ways.

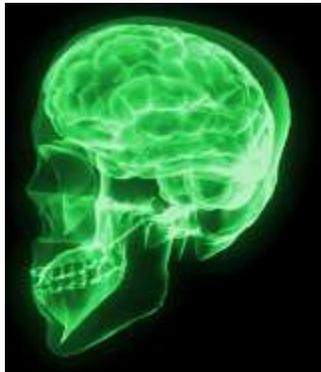
Perhaps that is why it is so hard for us to get our heads (and hearts) around Jesus' remarks about “losing our lives for his sake to gain them” (Matthew 10:39). (And why many congregations rather die than change.)

Once people know that they are wired that way and that their loss aversion comes out in emotional ways, they can step back from the issue, engage in self-reflection on a conscious level, have helpful conversation with others, examine various viewpoints, and arrive at a perspective that is actually more their own than the one engineered by their unconscious brain on auto-pilot. (A surgery that is 90% successful sounds like a fairly good recommendation, doesn't it?)

Apparently, our brains do a lot of stuff on autopilot, and most of it is good and helpful. But, so the research shows, that leaves us open to mistakes, errors, and, even worse, outside manipulation – especially by advertisers and politicians. But more on that another time.

Please keep me in your prayers. You are in mine.  
God's Peace,

*Pastor Hahn*



## Sunday Worship in October

### Online Worship

9:19 AM -- English  
11:11 AM -- German

**Please note the changes in starting times!!! This change is necessitated to make the transition to and from the in-person worship easier. Thank you for your cooperation!**

### In-Person Worship

10:15 AM -- Outdoors with Holy Communion:  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday—English  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday—German

5:15 PM -- Outdoors with Holy Communion:  
Every Sunday – English

### Special Worship

Sunday, Oct. 4, 3:00 PM:  
“German Unity Day”  
Celebration Worship (online).  
In Partnership with congregations in New York City and Washington DC.  
*\* Login info is on our website and available by calling the church office.*

### Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 25.  
Celebration at all scheduled services. **Wear something red!**

## If you plan to come to an in-person outdoor worship service:

### Please Sign Up

To make planning and preparations easier, please let the church office know by Friday noon to which service you will attend. Please email [office@immanuelphilly.org](mailto:office@immanuelphilly.org) or call 215-464-1540.

### What to bring

Please bring a **lawn chair** to sit in and your **mask** to wear. Also, bring a copy of the **worship folder** that was either emailed or USPS mailed to you.

### Where to park and sit

To assist with social distancing, please park in the spots between the orange cones or gray chairs. Sit in front of your car.

### What to expect

The services are about 35-40 minutes and include a message from Pastor, music, Holy Communion and the offering.  
Please observe safety protocols (mask covering both mouth and nose, and social distancing).

### What about the weather?

Come anyway. We have ordered a radio transmitter that allows you to stay in your car and hear the service over your car radio when the weather is inclement.

## “German Unity Day” Ecumenical Worship Celebration Sunday, October 4 3:00 PM

30 JAHRE WIEDERVEREINIGUNG

ÖKUMENISCHER  
GOTTESDIENST

New York · Philadelphia · Washington  
4. Oktober 2020  
3 PM via Zoom



You are invited to join members from German-speaking congregations in New York City and Washington, DC to this special event observing the official reunification of Germany in 1990.

The event will be available by internet and telephone. **PLEASE LOG IN at 2:45 PM.** The login information is on [ImmanuelPhilly.org](http://ImmanuelPhilly.org) or can be obtained from the church office during office hours.



# Erinnerung und Vorausschau

Mit einem ökumenischen Gottesdienst im Münchner Liebfrauentempel begann am 27. September die bundesweite „Interkulturelle Woche.“ Im Mittelpunkt steht das Gedenken an die Opfer des [Oktoberfestattentates von 1980](#).

Der Ratsvorsitzende der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, rief bei der Eröffnung zum Zusammenleben und Zusammenwachsen über nationale, kulturelle oder religiöse Hintergründe hinweg auf. Es reiche nicht aus, „Spaltungen zu beklagen, Egoismen anzuprangern und gegen Ausgrenzungen zu protestieren“, sagte der bayerische Landesbischof am Sonntag in einer Predigt im Münchner Liebfrauentempel.

Die Anschläge des vergangenen Jahres, Antisemitismus, Rassismus und andere Formen der Menschenfeindlichkeit versuchten, die Gesellschaft zu spalten. Vor dem Hintergrund des Münchner Oktoberfest-Attentats vor 40 Jahren sagte Bedford-Strohm, es sei beunruhigend, „wenn politische Kräfte am rechten Rand versuchen, solches Gedankengut heute wieder salonfähig zu machen“.

Die Kirchen rufen zu mehr humanitären Anstrengungen in der Migrations- und Flüchtlingspolitik auf. „Menschenrechte kennen keine Grenzen“, heißt es in einem am Montag veröffentlichten Gemeinsamen Wort der Kirchen zur Interkulturellen Woche 2020.



**Gott bringt Heil und Heilung dort hin, „wo es kalt und nass, wo es dreckig und lebensgefährlich ist; dort war und ist er solidarisch.“**

Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm

Gott bringe Heil und Heilung dort hin, „wo es kalt und nass, wo es dreckig und lebensgefährlich ist, dort war und ist er solidarisch“, sagte der Landesbischof in seiner Predigt weiter.

Die Kirchen mischten sich in Flüchtlingsfragen ein, weil Jesus seinen Jüngern gesagt habe, „was ihr den Geringsten meiner Brüder und Schwestern getan hat, das habt ihr mir getan“.

„Was, wenn es wirklich unser Herr Jesus Christus wäre, der in Moria vor dem Feuer weggerannt ist“, fragte Bedford-Strohm mit Blick auf den Großbrand in dem Flüchtlingslager auf der griechischen Insel Lesbos Anfang September.

Der Münchner Erzbischof Kardinal Reinhard Marx erinnerte in seiner Einführung an das Oktoberfest-Attentat vor 40 Jahren, das 13 Todesopfer und mehr als 200 Verletzte gefordert hatte.

Der Gottesdienst und die Interkulturelle Woche sollten auch ein Zeichen gegen Hass, Antisemitismus, die Verachtung anderer und nationalistische Hetze sein, sagte Marx laut Mitteilung der katholischen Deutschen Bischofskonferenz.

Die Präsidentin der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde München und Oberbayern, Charlotte Knobloch, beklagte dass „grundlegende Werte unserer Gesellschaft so gefährdet sind, wie lange nicht mehr“. In ihrem Grußwort, das verlesen wurde, mahnte sie, dem gemeinsam entgegenzutreten sei „Aufgabe unserer Zeit“.

Mehr bei [evangelisch.de](http://evangelisch.de)

*For an English version, please contact Pastor Hahn*

# CONNECTING WITH OTHERS



*With Pastor Dr. Martin Eberle, Washington, DC  
And Pastor Dr. Norbert Hahn, Philadelphia*  
**Monday, October 26, 7:30 PM (online)**

For many years, the Immanuel congregation has belonged to an organization called GELCINA (German Evangelical Lutheran Churches in North America). This is a group of congregations in the United States and Canada which still offer worship services in the German language.

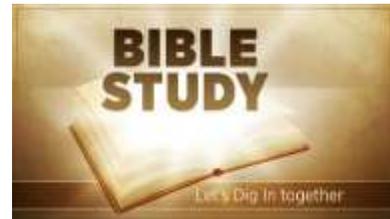
Every two years, lay delegates and pastors gather for a conference that includes continuing education, worship, mutual support, and a business session. The last conference was in 2019 and was held in San Francisco. There and then, Pastor Hahn was elected president of GELCINA.

The deadly coronavirus pandemic forced congregations to learn to worship and connect online, mostly via Zoom. Out of that necessity was born an idea: Congregations connecting with each other and doing things together. The first effort is a multi-congregational observation of the "Day of German Unity." (Please see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The other event is a conversation and Q&A session with Pastors Eberle and Hahn on the Monday after Reformation Sunday. Start time is 7:30 PM.

You can participate online or by telephone. The logon information is forthcoming. However, the conversation will be mostly in German.

**Sign up Now for remote Bible Study  
Wednesdays 10:00 AM!**



Someone once made this comparison: "What vitamins are for the body, so is the Word of God for the soul."

Getting into God's Word has a number of benefits: being blessed by it, getting surprised by it, being affirmed by it, being encouraged to grow by it, and many more. And, as someone else observed: 60 minutes of engaging God's Word is certainly better than 60 minutes of TV."

You may participate by phone or via the internet. Please sign up through the church office by October 5 via 215-464-1540 or [office@ImmanuelPhilly.org](mailto:office@ImmanuelPhilly.org).

**Sign Up Now for the "Online Oktoberfest"  
Saturday, October 17, 5:00 PM**



Get yourself your favorite beverage (it does not have to be beer if you don't like it) and your favorite snacks, then connect by phone or via internet to Immanuel's "Online Oktoberfest." Listen to, or sing along with, some good music.

Please sign up for this event through the church office by Oct. 9, so we can send you the song lyrics.

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Help Support Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends"

**2 Big Shopping Days:  
October 14 & 15, 2020  
9:00 AM to 9:00 PM ~  
No Shopping Pass Needed!**



Wouldn't it be great to know that you can help support Immanuel's Lutheran Disaster Response by shopping?

Not only can you save 20% on any purchases you make at Boscov's on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the 2 Day Friends Helping Friends Event, Boscov's will donate 5% of your total purchase price to Immanuel! You save 20% off lowest sale prices on almost everything. Mention our organization, **Immanuel Lutheran Church**, in-store at the register or online at checkout and Immanuel will receive 5% of your total purchase.

After the event concludes, Boscov's will send Immanuel a check for the amount that our supporters raised. That check will be given as a contribution to Lutheran Disaster Response to U.S. Wildfires.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christine Blankenhorn at 215-947-5079.



## **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE U.S. WILDFIRES**

Fueled by a heat wave and unfavorable winds, wildfires have erupted across California, Oregon, Washington, and other western states. At least 20 people have died, hundreds of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and more than 3.5 million acres have burned across the three states. Some evacuees face the difficult decision of whether to stay in a shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging** with at least three Lutheran social services agencies and five synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond. We expect immediate needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized.

**Your gifts will support wildfire survivors.** Gifts to “U.S. wildfires” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires, until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.

**If you care to help with a 2<sup>nd</sup> mile gift, please make your check payable to “Immanuel Lutheran Church” and send it to:**

Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
14100 Worthington Road, Philadelphia, PA 19116

**Or give online at [ImmanuelPhilly.org](https://www.immanuelphilly.org) (“Disaster Relief Fund”)**

## **SITUATION REPORT FROM LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

Hurricane Sally made landfall as a Category 2 storm on September 16<sup>th</sup> in Alabama. Sally moved slowly, dropping more than two feet of rain in some areas, and causing widespread power outages in eastern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle. As Sally weakened and moved inland, the storm continued to produce large amounts of rain and flash flooding in Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Seven deaths have resulted from the storm and preliminary reports anticipate \$5 billion worth of damage.

Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting the Florida-Bahamas Synod as they address community needs following the hurricane in the Florida Panhandle. The synod disaster team is distributing



food, water, cleaning supplies, and other items to survivors. The synod will also provide materials to begin repairing roofs. LDR is also supporting the work of the Southeastern Synod in providing relief support to survivors in coastal areas of Alabama. The synod is collaborating with Inspiritus in tree removal and clean-up efforts.

### **How You Can Help**

**Pray:** Let us pray for the people who have been affected by Hurricane Sally. May God’s healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

**Give:** Contribute to Lutheran Disaster Response (Hurricane Response). See info in left column.

Source: ELCA.org

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> <b>The Worship Services listed below</b> <b>will be broadcast LIVE, through ZOOM,</b> <b>unless noted (Outdoor).</b> <b>Check your email for instructions.</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
<b>4</b>  <b>Eighteenth Sunday</b> <b>after Pentecost</b>  9:19 AM English Service (online) 10:15 AM English Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German Service (online) 3:00 PM "German Unity Day" Celebration Service (online) 5:15 PM English Service (Outdoor) 6:00 PM What Lutherans Really Believe	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1:30 PM Member Care Team (Remote)	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote)  7:00 PM "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote)	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference (Remote)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
<b>11</b>  <b>Nineteenth Sunday</b> <b>after Pentecost</b>  9:19 AM English service (online) 10:15 AM German Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German service (online) 5:15 PM English Service (Outdoor) 6:00 PM What Lutherans Really Believe	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote)  7:00 PM "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote)  <b>Boscov's Day</b> (See page 6)	<b>15</b> 9:30 AM Committee of Deans (Remote)  <b>Boscov's Day</b> (See page 6)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)  5:00 PM "Online Octoberfest" (See page 4)
<b>18</b>  <b>Twentieth Sunday</b> <b>after Pentecost</b>  9:19 AM English service (online) 10:15 AM English Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German service (online) 5:15 PM English Service (Outdoor) 6:00 PM What Lutherans Really Believe  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM Congregation Council (remote)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote)  7:00 PM "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
<b>25</b>  <b>Reformation Sunday</b>  9:19 AM English service (online) 10:15 AM German Communion Service (Outdoor) 11:11 AM German service (online) 5:15 PM English Service (Outdoor) 6:00 PM What Lutherans Really Believe	<b>26</b> 7:30 PM Fireside Chat (Remote) <b>(See page 4)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study (Remote)  7:00 PM "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)