

SEPTEMBER 2020

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting people with God and with other people to make a difference!

14100 WORTHINGTON

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19116

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www.immanuelphilly.org

Immanuel Newsletter GOD'S WORK - OUR HANDS

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On or Off Campus

**WE
ARE THE CHURCH**

IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Ministers: Members and Friends of the Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Norbert F. Hahn, Ph.D. 215-464-1540 PastorHahnILC@gmail.com
Secretary: Diane Burgess 215-464-1540 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 rd Monday	7:00 PM	Barbara Hannon
Christian Events Team	1 st Tuesday	7:00 PM	Eileen Szentjobi
Finance Team	4 th Tuesday	7:00 PM	David W. Cook
Frauenverein	3 rd Wednesday	12:00 Noon	Marianne Haug
German Circle/Deutscher Kreis	1 st 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 st 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.

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

Sunday Worship Opportunities in September

The Congregation Council has set September 13 as the date to try out an in-person worship service at 10:15 AM on the Immanuel church campus.

This service will be in addition to the usual online services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM which will continue to be offered online.

Out of abundant concern for the health and well-being of members and friends of Immanuel, detailed safety protocols will govern this service.

Therefore, you can expect this service to be different from online service and past in-person services. (See sidebar.) For example, there will be no singing, no hymnals or bulletins, and no physical contact.

September 6

- 7:30 AM Outdoor Holy Communion.
- 9:30 AM English Service (remote)
- 11 AM German Service (remote)
- 6:30 PM Evening Service
- 7:30 PM Outdoor Holy Communion

September 13

- 9:30 AM English Service (remote)
- 10:15 AM ENGLISH Service (in-person)*
- 11 AM German Service (remote)
- 6:30 PM Evening Service

September 20

- 9:30 AM English Service (remote)
- 10:15 AM GERMAN Service (in-person)*
- 11 AM German Service (remote)
- 6:30 PM Evening Service

September 27

- 9:30 AM English Service (remote)
- 10:15 AM ENGLISH Service (in-person)*
- 11 AM German Service (remote)
- 6:30 PM Evening Service

October Preview

- October 4: Outdoor Holy Communion at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

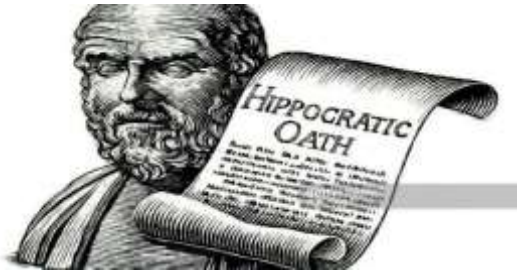
***In-Person Worship: What to expect and what to do!**

- 10:15 – 10:45 AM.
- Service of the Word (meditative music but no singing).
- Liturgy and readings will be on screen, no hymnals and no worship folders.
- Sept. 13 in English--Sept. 20 in German--Sept. 27 in English.
- Weekly evaluation about continuation based on health situation and compliance.*
- Masks must be worn over mouth and nose at all times.
- Social distancing must be observed in the parking lot and the church building. (No hugging, no shaking hands, and no exchanging the peace.)
- If someone disregards the protocol, the service immediately ends.
- Restrooms are for emergency use only. (Go at home before you leave.)
- Maximum number of participants: 25
- Minimum number of participants: 12
- Reservations are required each week through the church office on a "first come, first served" basis.
- Safety protocols are in place for entering, seating, and exiting the building and must be followed.
- Arrive timely. Leave quickly.

From Pastor Hahn

My dear church family,

“Do no harm!” Unless I am mistaken, that statement is part of the Hippocratic Oath that is a guiding principle for the practice of medicine.



Medical doctors pledge to follow that principle as they treat patients. (It would be a good principle for other professions as well.)

“Safety first!” was the mantra of the airline industry well before it became important in other areas of life. This principle, coupled with a willingness to learn from experience and errors, has led to some impressive safety improvements:



For Your Safety



In the 1930's, for every 10 billion kilometers travelled, 2,000 travelers lost their lives. Today, there is less than one casualty per 10 billion kilometers travelled.

It could be said that “love your neighbor” – the second of the three love commands of the New Testament (the others are to “love God” and “to love your enemy”)—incorporates the above principles. For example, the word “salvation” comes from the Latin word “salus” which also means “health.” And “being saved” in the sense of “being rescued” often has to do with being “safe” health-wise.

Asking medical doctors or the airline industry to “love their neighbors” (patients or customers) does not seem quite right. However, asking Christians “to love their neighbors” is 100% appropriate.

During the ongoing, and in some places worsening, Coronavirus pandemic, many Christians have been expressing their love for their neighbors by wearing masks and by observing social distancing protocols. I was delighted to see that very love in action at two recent outdoor events at Immanuel. (I still wish someone would make a mask that says on it “I wear this mask for your protection!” because that is love of neighbor.)



As congregations develop protocols to offer safe options for in-person worship, their leaders are trying to incorporate all three principles: (1) Do no harm! (2) Safety, first! (3) Love your neighbor! As you read the forthcoming protocols for in-person worship developed by Immanuel's Congregation Council, look for those three elements in them.

If you need additional inspiration and encouragement, I direct you to the words of St. Paul in Romans 14:13-23. In a dispute about dietary practices and restrictions, he encouraged those who felt less bound by the restrictions to pay neighbor-loving attention to those fellow Christians who worried that it was not safe for them. Making efforts to help and protect vulnerable and weaker neighbors sure sounds like neighborly love to me.

God's Peace,
Pastor Hahn

Der Weisheit Anfang

(The beginning of wisdom *Contact Pastor for an English version*)

„**Vieles Gewaltige lebt**, doch nichts ist gewaltiger als der Mensch.“ Dieser Spruch stammt von dem antiken Tragödiendichter Sophokles. Er hat zweifellos recht. Der Mensch in seiner Weisheit hat den Zustand der Erde nachhaltig verändert.

Er baut Gebäude, die bis in den Himmel zu ragen scheinen. Er überzieht die Erde mit einem Wegenetz, das auch noch den entferntesten Winkel erreichbar macht. Er kann zum Mond fliegen und Sonden zum Mars schicken. Krankheiten, an denen man früher starb, sind oft nur noch Routinefälle.

Der Mensch in seiner Macht scheint alles in den Griff zu bekommen, was er nur will. Doch gibt es Bereiche, in denen ihm die Weisheit fehlt.

Derselbe Mensch, der sich in seiner Weisheit die Erde untertan gemacht hat, ist dabei, sie zu zerstören. Derselbe Mensch, der seine Raketen bis weit in den Weltraum zu schießen versteht, ist nicht in der Lage, auf die Raketen zu verzichten, die mit Atomköpfen ausgestattet sind. Derselbe Mensch, der die Erträge seiner Erde ungeheuerlich gesteigert hat, ist nicht in der Lage, sie so zu teilen, dass niemand mehr Hunger leiden muss. Derselbe Mensch, der so stolz ist auf seine Weisheit, kann nicht verhindern, dass sinnlose, mörderische Kriege geführt werden.

Seine Weisheit macht den Menschen scheinbar unüberwindbar; doch ist sie unfähig, das abzuwenden, was ihn bedroht und zerstören kann. Deshalb heißt im biblischen Buch der Sprüche: „Der Weisheit Anfang ist die Furcht des Herrn“ (Sprüche 9.10).



Das steht nun quer zu allen Versuchen, mit der Weisheit selbst die Größe des Menschen zu erweisen und zu erweitern. Der Spruch ist eine Zumutung, weil er die menschliche Autonomie eingrenzt und relativiert: Weisheit ist nur dann wirklich weise, wenn sie verankert ist im Glauben an Gott.

Gottesfurcht ist die Grundlage der menschlichen Weisheit, sagt das Buch der Sprüche. Das begrenzt die Weisheit entschieden und gibt ihr gleichzeitig einen neuen Wirkungskreis.

Ausgeschlossen ist damit eine Weisheit, die keine ist, weil sie das von Gott Geschaffene und Geliebte zerstört und den Mitmenschen in seiner Not alleinlässt.

Die „Weisheit in der Furcht des Herrn“ führt dahin, nach Wegen zu suchen, die dem Willen Gottes entsprechen: Wege in einen Frieden, der Kriege beendet. Wege in eine Fülle, die auch die Ärmsten nicht hungern und dürsten lässt. Wege in eine Zukunft, in der der Planet Erde nicht mehr geplündert wird. Würde das gelingen, wäre der Mensch noch gewaltiger. Er würde zu einem guten Mitarbeiter Gottes.

Autor: *Pastor Diederich Lüken*. Mehr bei Rundfunk.Evangelisch.de

OUTDOOR COMMUNION



On Sunday, August 2, 49 members and friends of Immanuel relieved their **spiritual hunger** by participating in two outdoor Holy Communion services. One was held at sunrise (sort of) at 7:30 AM; the other one was held under the stars at 8:30 PM. An altar was set up on the lawn underneath the big cross in back of the church building; loudspeakers provided voice and, in the evening, music amplification, and the Lord's Supper was shared in a contact-less, safe way by using prepackaged individual cups. It appeared that all participants followed the safety protocol by wearing masks and staying in or right next to their cars.

Sunday also marked the beginning of an emphasis on relieving the **physical hunger** of neighbors in need. Members and friends of the congregation had been invited via the electronic newsletter, Pastor's information call, and the mailed-out worship folders to donate non-perishable groceries. Pastor's Sunday sermon on the miracle of the loaves and fish underscored the importance and holy nature of supporting hungry children, seniors, and adults. Many of the participants at the outdoor Holy Communion services brought groceries (see picture). Others gave financial gifts that day. Additional financial gifts designated for "hunger relief" were given both online and by US Mail.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Thanks to everyone working on blankets for Project Linus. If you have finished blankets, please call Alma Dallas at 215-750-7807 or Barbara Hannon at 215-637-8478 to let us know how many you have completed. We will let you know when and how the blankets can be collected. As always we appreciate your continued support of this worthwhile cause.

PARKING LOT PALOOZA AND FOOD DRIVE

The Member Care Team of Immanuel invited the members and friends of our church family to participate in a drive-in/drive-through parking lot event on Saturday, August 8.

In the spirit of experimentation and wanting to give Immanuel's members and friends an opportunity to see each other, at least from a safe distance, the team had prepared inspiring signs, provided song-sheets and music for a sing-along, and sponsored a "funny hat" and "funny t-shirt" contest.

Also, participants were invited to donate non-perishable food items for neighbors who are hungry due to virus pandemic. In addition to the palooza participants, several people came just to donate food. The food donated filled several carts to overflowing. (Thanks to Christina and Matt DeMarco for their help.)



In addition, about \$600 was given for hunger relief. Financial Secretary, Elaine Bradley reports that financial contributions in August exceeded our \$1,000 goal.

Feast of Justice, located at St. John's Mayfair, came and picked up over 1,000 (estimated) items. Their thank you is shown below.

Members of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your very generous donation from your recent food drive. This donation comes to us at a time of great need in our community and the world. The nearly 750 pounds of food and personal care items will be distributed to the hundreds of families we serve on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Feast of Justice <https://www.feastofjustice.com/>)

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PLEASE NOTE: The Worship Services listed below will be broadcast LIVE, through ZOOM, unless noted (in person). See page 3 for additional information.		1 7:00 PM Christian Events Team (remote)	2	3	4	5
6 14th Sunday after Pentecost 7:30 AM Holy Communion at Sunrise (Page 6) 9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service 7:30 PM Holy Communion under the Stars (Page 6)	7 LABOR DAY	8	9 "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote Discussion) 10:00 AM 7:00 PM Congregation Council (remote)	10 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference (remote)	11	12 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
13 Gods Work. Our Hands. 15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30AM English service (online) 10:15 AM English service (in-person) 11:00 AM German service (online) 6:30 PM Evening service (online)	14	15	16 "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote Discussion) 10:00 AM 7:00 PM	17 9:30 AM Deans Meeting (remote)	18	19 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
20 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30AM English service (online) 10:15 AM German service (in-person) 11:00 AM German service (online) 6:30 PM Evening service (online) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 7:00 PM Congregation Council (remote)	22	23 "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote Discussion) 10:00 AM 7:00 PM	24	25	26 9:30 AM Immanuel German School (Remote)
27 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30AM English service (online) 10:15 AM English service (in-person) 11:00 AM German service (online) 6:30 PM Evening service (TBA) 7:15 PM What Lutherans Really Believe (TBA)	28	29	30 "A Journey of Discovery" (Remote Discussion) 10:00 AM 7:00 PM			