

Immanuel Newsletter

GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

SEPTEMBER 2021

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

14100 WORTHINGTON RD.

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19116

Phone: 215-464-1540

www.ImmanuelPhilly.org

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INDOOR Worship ***With Holy Communion***

September 5

10:15 AM German Service

September 12

10:15 AM English Service

7:30 PM English*

September 19

10:15 AM German Service

September 26

10:15 AM English Service

7:30 PM English*

The Congregation Council has provided information and updated protocols for indoor worship in a separate mailing. Please review it before attending an indoor worship service. If you need a copy, please contact the church office.

***Outdoor weather permitting.
Otherwise indoor.**

Online Sunday Worship in September

9:19 AM English

11:11 AM German

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Community Flea Market **Saturday, September 18**

9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

(Weather Permitting)

Free Parking!

Vendor Opportunity!

Shoppers are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food or cash donation to benefit St. Stephen's Food Bank.

We are praying for good weather!

IMMANUEL NEWSLETTER

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Council President:	Barbara Hannon	215-637-8478	

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING TIMES, LEADERS

(All meetings held thru ZOOM)

Bible/Devotional Study	Fridays	2:00 PM	Pastor Hahn
Book Discussion	Wednesdays	7:00 PM	Jim Clements
Choir	<i>On hiatus</i>		
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	TBA
Frauenverein	<i>On hiatus</i>		Marianne Haug
German Circle/Deutscher Kreis	<i>On hiatus</i>		Ruth Muggler
Girl Scouts	Wednesdays	7:00 PM	Nancy Smith
Hand Bell Choir	<i>On hiatus</i>		
Immanuel German School	Saturdays	9:30 AM	Dr. Del Hausman
Ladies' Guild	<i>On hiatus</i>		Barbara Hannon
Member Care Team	1 st Tuesday	1:30 PM	Judi Hannigan
Mutual Ministry Team	TBA		John Scholtz
Social Ministry Team	TBA		
Sunday School	<i>On hiatus</i>		Eileen Szentjobi
Worship Planning Team	TBA		
Youth Group	<i>On hiatus</i>		Chris Blankenhorn and Eileen Szentjobi

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL STAFF

Diane Burgess Pastor Norbert F. Hahn Marianne Haug

Send information or questions to Office@ImmanuelPhilly.org

Immanuel Church needs your help in ensuring its future ministry. Please include the church in your will. You may want to at least tithe (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

From Pastor Hahn

My dear Immanuel church family,

I cannot thank you enough for the faithfulness and dedication you have shown to the ministry and mission of our congregation over the past 16 months that were marked by the Covid pandemic.

You have remained dedicated to being in worship – online, by telephone, outdoors, in the mornings, in the evenings, and finally, indoors in person.

You have been faithful in your financial giving – mailing your weekly offerings to the church campus, giving online, and, sometimes, dropping your gifts off in person.

You have been generous with second-mile gifts – you have given gifts of food for our different food drives, you have shared all or portions of your stimulus checks, you have “caught up” on Sundays you may have missed, you have given gifts in honor or memory of loved ones.

You have prayed for each other and with each other as well as for people in need near and far. Many of you have told me that you are praying for me and Lyn as well. We are very grateful!

You have been supportive of your Congregation Council's focus on “safety first,” even if it may not have been to your liking and other churches in the area put their emphases elsewhere.

You have adapted to various changes related to the building, Holy Communion, accessibility, meetings, groups, classes, and you are coming to terms with the reality that there will be some type of “new normal” that is different from the past.

Thank you for staying loyal and connected to your church family and for supporting the work of Christ through the mission and ministry of Immanuel.

What's Ahead?

I anticipate that the Congregation Council will review Immanuel's “safety first” policy at its next meeting, using reliable and trustworthy sources. In my mind, a lot depends on the dynamics of the new – so much more dangerous – Delta variant.

I am delighted to be able to highlight several special things planned for the month of September:

Sat., Sept. 11, 2021, is
**God's work.
Our hands.
Day**

Saturday, September 11 is “God's Work. Our Hands. Day”

It includes a drive-thru food drive, a blessing of cars and drivers, and Holy Communion – if desired.

Saturday, September 18 is Flea Market Day

Got stuff that you need to move out of the house or apartment? This flea market is a great solution.

September 5, 12, 19, & 26 A Special Sunday Series

Explore the practical advice for Christian life in the book of James.

Book Discussion: Wednesdays at 7 PM
Discover and talk about the so-called “Secrets of Our Faith.”

“Christ in our Home” Fridays at 2 PM
Share with, or learn from, others' insights from the daily devotional booklet.

Holy Communion

Every Sunday at 10:15 AM INDOORS; September 12 and 26 at 7:30 PM OUTDOORS, weather permitting, otherwise INDOORS.

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

God's Peace,
Pastor Hahn

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Das 8. Gebot — Einmal Anders

Sie haben eine lange Geschichte und sind ein schleichendes Gift in unserer Gesellschaft. Sie schüren Verdacht, sind kompromisslos, oft antidemokratisch und neigen dazu, sektiererisch zu sein: Verschwörungstheorien.

Verschwörungstheorien sind Deutungen, die angesichts der Komplexität von Welterfahrungen exklusive Interpretationen versuchen und dabei wissenschaftliche Kenntnisse ignorieren, Menschen oder Menschengruppen beschuldigen und ausgrenzende soziale Verhaltensweisen befördern.

Theologisch gesehen verstoßen Verschwörungstheorien gegen das achte Gebot: „Du sollst nicht falsch Zeugnis reden wider deinen Nächsten“ (2. Buch Mose, Kapitel 20, Vers 16).

Was damit gemeint ist, erklärt Martin Luther im Kleinen Katechismus: „Wir sollen Gott fürchten und lieben, dass wir unsern Nächsten nicht belügen, verraten, verleumden oder seinen Ruf verderben, sondern sollen ihn entschuldigen, Gutes von ihm reden und alles zum Besten kehren.“

Verschwörungserzählungen müssen durch sachliche und differenzierte Wirklichkeitsdeutungen dechiffriert werden. Die Vielfalt der Argumente und die Informationen aus verschiedensten Quellen sind sorgfältig zu sichten und abzuwiegen.

Dabei sollte das Gespräch und die Diskussion mit der Anhängerschaft von Verschwörungstheoretikern zum selbstverständlichen Auftrag der Kirche gehören.

Geleitwort von Landesbischof Ralf Meister, Leitender Bischof der VELKD, zum VELKD Text, „Verschwörungsmethoden und Verschwörungsglaube— Information, Orientierung, Hinweise.“ Juli 2021.

Eine Kopie dieser kleinen Schriften (16 Seiten) ist von Pastor Hahn erhältlich.

The 8th Commandment — A Different View

They have a long history and are a silently growing poison in our society. They create suspicions, refuse to compromise, are often against democracy, and tend to have a sect-like character: conspiracy theories.

Conspiracy theories are attempts to interpret complex world events in an exclusive manner by excluding scientific knowledge, by accusing individuals or groups, and by promoting behavior and attitudes that exclude certain people.

From a spiritual and theological perspective, conspiracy theories break the 8th Commandment: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16).

In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther explains: “We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”

Conspiracy theories must be deciphered with fact-based and differentiated interpretations of reality. The multiplicity of explanations and information from a variety of sources must be carefully reviewed and assessed.

Engaging in conversations and discussions with followers of conspiracy theories should be part of the mission of the church.

Foreword to a teaching document of the VELKD (United Lutheran Church in Germany) issued in July 2021 and entitled, “Conspiracy Myths and Conspiracy Faith—Information, Orientation, and Practical Tips” by Presiding VELKD Bishop Ralf Meister.

A German version of the short document (16 pages) is available from Pastor Hahn.



CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

**NEW: “Secrets of Our Faith”
Book Discussion via ZOOM
Starts Wed., Sept. 1 at 7:00 PM**



Membership is declining in many churches. One reason is that many young people with modern thinking refuse to follow what they consider obsolete beliefs and practices.

Writing in a non-threatening way, Barry Ellsworth, the author of “Secrets of Our Faith” challenges both young and not so young to understand the church’s mission in today’s modern world.

Love it or hate it, you will have a better understanding of why the 21st Century Church is struggling and what possibilities exist for your congregation to respond.

“Tune in” on Wednesday evenings and be inspired by this engaging story that echoes the personal experiences of many Christians.

For more information and to receive the internet or phone access information, please call Jim Clements at 215-938-1852 or send an email to Jim.Clements@comcast.net. (Please order your own copy of the book or ask Jim for help.)

A Special Sunday Series

The book of James has been called both “God’s Little Instruction Book” and “An Epistle of Straw.” Perhaps there is more than meets the eye in this short New Testament book.

Join the exploration of a key section of the book of James on each of the Sundays in September. (September 5, 12, 19, & 26)

Condolences

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of David Cook who passed away August 14. Interment will take place on Wednesday, September 15 at 2:00 PM at Washington Crossing Cemetery. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Thank you for keeping the Cook family and friends in your prayers.



We also extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Ernst Schmid who passed away on August 19. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, August 31, 10:30 AM at Ann’s Choice. Thank you for keeping Ernst’s family and friends in your prayers.



Thank You

We are so grateful for your sympathy, caring thoughts, prayers and support in this most difficult time with the passing of my husband, our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Klaus. It was such a great comfort to us knowing you were with us. Thank you.
God’s Peace, *Ilse Abendroth and Family*

Conversations on “Christ in our Home” Fridays in September at 2:00 PM

Enjoy sharing with others, or just hearing from them, insights and inspiration from the short daily devotions contained in the little booklet, “Christ in Our Home.” (Available from Barbara Hannon.)
Login via the **internet**:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81618811335?pwd=VStV eTB1eFZzRWM0bHdJb1JkQ3N0Zz09>

Dial by phone: 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 816 1881 1335; **Passcode:** 508720

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Community Flea Market

Saturday, September 18, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

All types of merchandise – collectibles, jewelry, housewares, tools, electronics, games, videos, books, toys, clothing & more!



We encourage shoppers to bring a food or cash donation for St. Stephen's Food Bank.

Please note that the Flea Market is an outdoor event and will be held on a "weather permitting" basis. Please check www.Hillhappenings.org for updates.

Vendors Opportunity! Please call Chris Blankenhorn at 215-947-5079.

God's Work. Our Hands.

This year, we will celebrate "God's work. Our hands." on **Saturday, September 11** with a **Food Drop-Off Drive-Through Celebration**. Please stop by the church campus, between **9:00 AM and 1:00 PM** to donate non-perishable food items for a local food bank. No need to get out of your car! A volunteer will gladly carry your donations to the donation table. **Our goal is 500 lbs. or 500 items!**

Pastor Hahn is offering a blessing of your car and a blessing for your safety. You can also receive Holy Communion if you so desire. It will be celebrated every 30 minutes.

Every household that contributes to the food drive will also be entered into a raffle!

The "God's Work. Our Hands." Hymn



A hymn titled "God's Work, Our Hands," written by Wayne Wold, was selected as the winning entry in the ELCA's "God's work. Our hands." Sunday hymn contest in 2019. More than 120 entries were submitted to be considered as a hymn for the ELCA's annual dedicated day of service. Here are the lyrics of verses 1 & 2. (It is set to the tune of "Earth and All Stars.")

1. God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel.

2. God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your Gospel. You can hear a recording of the entire hymn here:

<https://youtu.be/WkUINcJ3KXA>



August 15, 2021

We are cautiously thrilled to report that we have been invited back to hold classes in Lower Moreland High School. *Cautiously* thrilled because we continue to monitor the virus and its variants, and we are prepared to move back online if the schools once again close.

Enrollment is down from pre-pandemic years, so if you have been thinking about learning German or brushing up on your German, now is a great time to do so.

Although we will miss those teachers who have left us, we are excited to welcome Olivia Simmet, who will teach our level III class. Olivia is currently completing a Master of Arts in German Language and Culture. Taking over our level 9/10 class is Frau Dr. Imke Brust, Head of the German Department at Haverford College. It is in this course that students are prepared for level I of the German Language Diploma.

Hannah Rosmus, the student with the highest score on last year's Advanced Placement Exam, spent last year completing her junior year in high school living with her grandparents in Germany and attending the *Gymnasium* from which her father graduated. We are pleased that she is returning to the Immanuel German School.

Immanuel German School graduate, Matthias Hausman, recently graduated summa cum laude from the Rochester Institute of Technology with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and International and Global Studies as well as minors in German and Russian. Matthias was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to work in Germany as a teaching assistant and will be departing soon for a year in Saxony.

We were thrilled to receive a second 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 finances of our school.

Remember, it's never too late to learn German!

– Del, Jeanette, John, and Marianne



As the U.S. armed forces rapidly withdraw from Afghanistan, **many Afghans** who served alongside them are in **grave danger** and at risk of retaliatory attacks from the Taliban.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) is calling for volunteers to support incoming Afghan Allies, Special Immigrant Visa holders, who are being evacuated to the United States.

When our Afghan allies and their families arrive as “walk-ins,” they often have **no money, nowhere to stay, and nothing to eat**. Unfortunately, there is typically a 5–7-day gap between the families' arrivals and the services they are eligible to receive through the United States resettlement program.

This is where you can help. Your gift to **Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies** will provide food, housing assistance, clothing, and other basic needs for our Afghan friends as they await the official services available to them.

You can give through Immanuel Church (check or electronic gift), memo: “refugee help.” More information is at [LIRS.org](https://lirs.org). Thank you in advance!

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE: Worship Services in black ink and <i>most</i> Meetings are remote and will be held/broadcast LIVE through ZOOM. (Online and telephone) INDOOR Services include Holy Communion and are in red</p>			1 7:00 PM Book Discussion	2 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference 7:27 PM The Art of Better Reaching	3 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home	4
<p>5 15th Sunday After Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM INDOOR German Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service</p>	<p>6 Labor Day</p>	<p>7 1:30 PM Member Care Team 7:00 PM Christian Events Team</p>	8 7:00 PM Book Discussion	9	10 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home	<p>11 9:30 AM Immanuel German School 9:30 to 1:00 God's Work. Our Hands. Food Drop Off</p>
<p>12 God's Work. Our Hands. 16th Sunday After Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM INDOOR English Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service 7:30 PM OUTDOOR English Communion Service* NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	13	14	15 7:00 PM Book Discussion	16 9:30 AM Deans Meeting	17 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home	<p>18 9:30 AM Immanuel German School 9:30 AM Community Flea Market</p>
<p>19 17th Sunday After Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM INDOOR German Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service</p>	<p>20 7:00 PM Congregati on Council (remote)</p>	21	22 7:00 PM Book Discussion	23	24 2:00 PM Christ in Our Home	<p>25 9:30 AM Immanuel German School</p>
<p>26 18th Sunday After Pentecost 9:19 AM English Service 10:15 AM INDOOR English Communion Service 11:11 AM German Service 7:30 PM OUTDOOR English Communion Service*</p>	27	<p>28 7:00 PM Finance Team Meeting (remote)</p>	29 7:00 PM Book Discussion	30		

* Weather permitting; otherwise INDOOR.

Food drop offs can be made Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Please call ahead.)

Check your email for ZOOM instructions.