

# APRIL 2022

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](http://www.ImmanuelPhilly.org)

## Immanuel Newsletter GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

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### NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services are now simultaneously  
INDOOR and REMOTE

9:30 AM English Service  
11:00 AM German Service  
6:30 PM English Service (4/3 and 4/17)

*Holy Week Worship Schedule on Page 4*

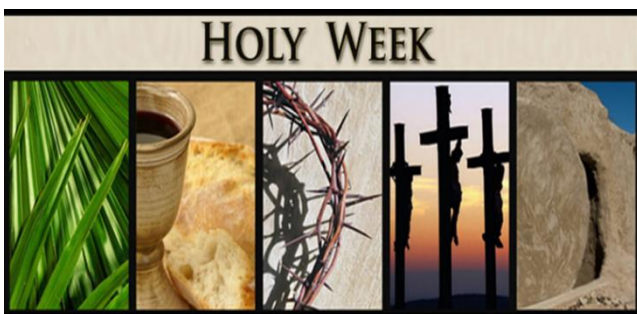
# CONNECTING WITH GOD

## From Pastor Hahn:

My dear Immanuel church family,

**April promises to be a very special month** in the life of our church family. I can feel the anticipation in the air. Some great experiences await us.

**First of all, there is Holy Week.** Beginning with Palm/Passion Sunday on April 10, we walk with Jesus into Jerusalem and participate with him in the institution of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday.



I have said it many times before and I will stress it again: Your experience of Easter will be much more meaningful and joyful if you participate in the worship experiences of Holy Week.

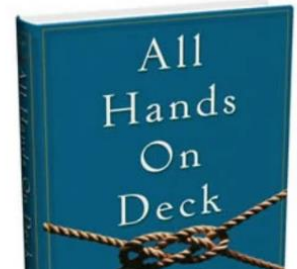
**Secondly, there is the celebration of Easter** both on Easter Saturday with the Easter Vigil after sundown and then the celebrations on Easter Sunday. In the midst of the deadly carnage inflicted by the Russian army on the people of Ukraine, it is good to hear that God's "yes" to life is louder and stronger than death.

**Thirdly, you and I will mark another milestone** in our relationship: It was on Easter 2016 that I officially began my ministry with you. So, "Happy Sixth Anniversary" to all of us.

**Fourthly, as a church family** we will be launching our ministry and mission into what is called "the post-pandemic reality." Much like the fall of the Berlin Wall and the events of 9/11, the pandemic has created a different environment, especially for religious organizations.

**The de-churching of America** has only taken on steam during the pandemic, and our society's interest and culture's openness to the kind of faith practices we take for granted is waning. But there is hope as the council learned in its continuing education with churches in Canada.

**In this post-pandemic environment,** all members' and friends' skills, time, talent, and generosity will be needed for our congregation to recapture the upward path we were on before the pandemic struck. This includes you, dear reader! Everyone can do something! And: training and coaching will be available.



**Fifthly, while we gently need** to experiment with some ways to strengthen our congregation, some of the familiar will return. On Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM we will have INDOOR worship in English and at 11:00 AM INDOOR worship in German. Twice a month, we will also have INDOOR worship in English at 6:30 PM. (A special gift will be used to make arrangements to "live-stream" these services in high quality.)

For the changes in our Covid-19 safety protocols approved by the Congregation Council, please see page 4 in this newsletter.

Blessings on the remainder of your Lenten journey and your walk with Jesus into Jerusalem to the cross and to the empty tomb! Happy Easter!

God's Peace,  
Pastor Hahn



## Eine Präses mahnt zum Frieden

**"Genug Tote, genug Verletzte,** genug fürs Leben Traumatisierte, auch unter den russischen Soldaten, genug Zerstörung in Charkiw und Mariupol und in den anderen Städten", sagte die Präses der Evangelischen Kirchen von Westfalen und die Ratsvorsitzende der Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), Annette Kurschus, am 20.3. in der Johanneskirche im hessischen Eltville am Rhein. "Es ist längst viel zu viel."



**Kurschus erklärte, die Menschen hofften** auf ein Einlenken: "Es ist genug. Wie gern würden wir diesen Satz hören aus Präsident Putins Mund." Der russische Präsident sei kein Krieger für eine heilige Sache und auch kein Prophet, der gegen die Sünde kämpfe. Es sei deshalb "kaum zu ertragen", was der russisch-orthodoxe Patriarch Kyrill kürzlich in einer Predigt gesagt habe, erklärte Kurschus.

**Das Oberhaupt der Russisch-Orthodoxen Kirche,** Kyrill I., hatte sich in der Predigt hinter den russischen Präsidenten Wladimir Putin gestellt und die Kriegshandlungen in der Ukraine als Verteidigung "traditioneller christlicher Werte" befürwortet. Die lutherischen Kirchen in Polen und Deutschland appellieren hingegen an den Patriarchen, sich für ein Ende des Ukraine-Russland-Konflikts einzusetzen.

In ihrer Predigt verwies die EKD-Ratsvorsitzende zudem auf den biblischen Propheten Elia, der in die Wüste geflohen und Gott angefleht habe, seine Seele zu sich zu nehmen. "Heute würde man ihn vermutlich einen Fanatiker nennen", sagte Kurschus. Er habe seinen Gott bis aufs Blut verteidigt und dafür getötet.



In der Wüste jedoch werde Elia zu einem ausgebrannten Krieger, "selbst zerstört von der Zerstörung, die er angerichtet hat", sagte die Theologin. In seinem Eingeständnis an Gott "Es ist genug" stecke aber auch ein Funken Hoffnung: "Es wird ein Ende geben - und einen Neuanfang."

**Vor zwei Tagen hatte Kurschus im Berliner Dom** zusammen mit Geistlichen verschiedener Konfessionen der Opfer des Ukraine-Krieges gedacht. "Wir denken an den Schmerz und das Leid der Opfer dieses entsetzlichen Krieges", sagte Kurschus. Sie würdigte jene Priester des Moskauer Patriarchats, die sich in einer Unterschriftenaktion gegen den Krieg und die Position ihrer Kirchenleitung gestellt haben, sowie die Aktivisten der inzwischen verbotenen russischen Menschenrechtsorganisation Memorial und die vielen Hilfswilligen, "die jetzt Hände reichen und Geflüchteten Zuflucht geben".

**Die EKD-Auslandsbischöfin Petra Bosse-Huber** sagte: "Unsere Solidarität, unser Mitgefühl und unser Gebet gilt den Menschen in der Ukraine und auch allen ökumenischen Geschwistern, die in der Ukraine, in Russland, in Belarus und weltweit ihre Stimme gegen diesen Angriffskrieg erhoben haben."

Der russische Angriffskrieg gegen die Ukraine hat laut UN bislang rund zehn Millionen Menschen in die Flucht getrieben. Dabei handelt es sowohl um Binnenvertriebene als auch um Menschen, die die Ukraine verlassen haben, wie der UN-Hochkommissar für Flüchtlinge, Filippo Grandi, per Twitter mitteilte.

Er betonte, dass diejenigen, die Kriege beginnen, für das Leiden der Zivilisten die Verantwortung tragen. In

Deutschland sind mittlerweile deutlich mehr als 200.000 ukrainische Kriegsflüchtlinge angekommen (Stand am 20.3.).

## Holy Week Worship

### Palm Sunday 4/10

- 9:30 AM English Service  
and Confirmation Reunion
- 11:00 AM German Service  
and Confirmation Reunion

### Maundy Thursday 4/14

- 12:00 Noon Communion Service
- 7:30 PM Communion Service

### Good Friday 4/15

- 12:00 Noon Bi-lingual Service
- 3:00 PM German Service,  
preceded by Holy  
Communion
- 7:30 PM English Tenebrae Service

### Easter Saturday 4/16

- 7:00 PM Easter Bonfire and Fellowship
- 7:30 PM Easter Procession and Vigil

### Easter Sunday 4/17

- 9:30 AM English Easter Celebration  
with Holy Communion
- 11:00 AM German Easter Celebration  
with Holy Communion
- 6:30 PM Evening Service  
with Holy Communion

***\*Services are BOTH  
Indoor and through Zoom  
(online and telephone)***

## UPDATED COVID-19 Safety Protocols

The Congregation Council approved the following  
“Phase 1” **changes to begin on Sunday, April 3:**

- Sunday INDOOR services (with simultaneous live streaming) will be at 9:30 AM (English) and 11:00 AM (in German).
- There will INDOOR evening services (with simultaneous live streaming) twice a month.
- Windows and doors will no longer be open during the service.
- Worshipers may seat themselves. Social distancing is encouraged. (Every other pew will be available.)
- Masks are encouraged.
- Use of hand sanitizer upon entry into the building.
- Holy Communion will continue with individual cups. (Available in the narthex/lobby.)
- Offering plates will be available near the entrance/exit doors.
- Elevator use is possible upon request.

After 30 days, the Congregation Council will assess how well Phase 1 is working and discuss steps for Phase 2, including food prep and use in the building, groups meeting during the week, and more.

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the Miller and O'Neill families on the birth of **William John Miller IV**. His parents are Bill and Katie Miller, and his grandmother is Nancy O'Neill. Please keep William John in your prayers.



# CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

## Congregation Annual Meeting Summary

On Sunday, March 6, the Immanuel congregation gathered online for its Annual Meeting.

- *Marion Morris* was re-elected as Council Secretary, and *Margret Rommel* was re-elected as Treasurer.
- *Jim Clements, Judi Hannigan, Cindy Mitchell, and Mark Potent* were newly elected to the Congregation Council.
- Outgoing members of the Congregation Council, *Klaus Bernhardt, Barbara Hannon, and Darlene Thurnau* were thanked for their service.
- The Ministry Spending Plan for 2022 was approved.
- The Congregation Council was authorized to operate with ten members in 2022.

## Council Officers and Members for 2022

Dr. Norbert Hahn, Pastor  
Christine Blankenhorn, President\*  
Christel Birgel, Vice-President\*  
Marion Morris, Secretary  
Margret Rommel, Treasurer  
Elaine Bradley, Financial Secretary

Jim Clements  
Judi Hannigan  
Cindy Mitchell  
Mark Potent  
Melissa DeV Vaughn

\*elected by Council on 3/21/22

## Our Mission, Ministry Areas, and Ministry Leaders

### 3. Making a Difference

A. Social/Community Ministry--  
*Mark Potent*  
B. Member Care Ministry – *Judi Hannigan*

*Providing Mission Support:*  
A. Financial Accountability—  
*Margret Rommel*  
B. Property Care—*Christel Birgel*

### 1. Connecting People with God

A. Worshipping God—*Jim Clements*  
B. Giving back to God—*TBA*

### 2. Connecting People with other People

A. Relationship-Building in ILC—*Cindy Mitchell*  
B. Relationship-Building with the Community (Evangelism)—*Marion Morris*

## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the families and friends of **Joyce Reif** and **Michael Austin** who passed away recently. The Reif and Austin families are friends of the congregation. Please keep them in your prayers.





## Easter Egg Hunt



Join Immanuel Lutheran Church and the Easter Bunny for our **Annual Easter Egg Hunt!** There will be many eggs to find and raffle prizes to win for kids and adults--don't miss this free community event!

The hunt is scheduled for **Saturday, April 16, 2022** and begins ***promptly*** at **1:00 PM** on Immanuel's Campus.

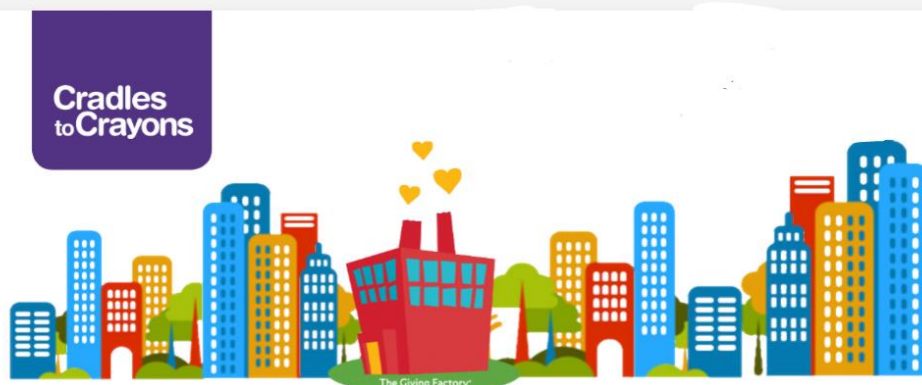
To make it easy for all, the hunt will happen by age categories: up to age 3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The children should bring their own basket or bag and be in line no later than 12:45 PM. In the event of rain, you will be able to pick up prepackaged eggs from 1:00 to 2:00 PM.

There is no charge for this event as it is supported by Thrivent Financial. However, **Immanuel is requesting donations of nonperishable food items for the local food bank.**

Please register to attend this event on our websites: [ImmanuelPhilly.org](https://ImmanuelPhilly.org) or [hillhappenings.org](https://hillhappenings.org). Please include the number of children attending.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Immanuel is holding their first **Diapers and Wipes Drive to benefit Cradles to Crayons**. Cradles to Crayons is a local charity that benefits families and children in need. Of the ten largest U.S. cities, Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate. Three in five children in Philadelphia live in poverty. Cradles to Crayons also has chapters in Boston and Chicago.

Our drive will be held on **Saturday, April 30th, between the hours of 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM**. Any size and brand of diapers and wipes will be gladly accepted. Please note that all packages must be unopened.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office at 215-464-1540 and leave your name and phone number so we can return your call. If the above date and time does not work for you, please call and we will make other arrangements.

We hope you will join us in supporting this worthy cause!

## REMINDERS—

- Please take a few minutes each day to pray for members and friends using your **40 Days of Prayer** calendar.
- Support **ELCA World Hunger** by setting aside an amount of your choosing each day during Lent. Bring your gift during Holy Week services, mail it, or give online (memo: Hunger Relief).
- Assemble **Personal Care Kits** for **Lutheran World Relief**. Kits can be brought to the Immanuel campus during Holy Week services. You can also make a donation of \$15 per kit (memo: LWR kits).



# APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> <b>All services are INDOORS and REMOTE at the same time.</b> Some Covid-19 safety precautions are still encouraged or in place. <b>Meetings will continue to be held through Zoom (online and telephone).</b>					<b>1</b>  2:00 PM Christ in Our Home	<b>2</b>  9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
<b>3</b>  <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>  <i>Installation of Congregation Council</i>  <b>9:30 AM</b> English Service <b>11:00 AM</b> German Service 6:30 PM Evening Service  <b>All services with Holy Communion!</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  1:30 PM Member Care Team  7:00 PM Christian Events Team  7:30 PM German Meditation	<b>6</b>  12:00 Noon Indoor English Meditation  7:00 PM English Meditation (remote)	<b>7</b>  9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference Meeting	<b>8</b>  2:00 PM Christ in Our Home	<b>9</b>  9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
<b>10</b>  <b>Palm Sunday</b>  9:30 AM English Service and Confirmation Reunion  11:00 AM German Service and Confirmation Reunion  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  7:30 PM German Meditation	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  12:00 Noon Communion Service  7:30 PM Communion Service	<b>15</b>  <b>Good Friday</b>  12:00 Noon Bi-lingual Service  3:00 PM German Service (preceded by Holy Communion)  7:30 PM English Tenebrae Service	<b>16</b>  <b>Easter Saturday</b>  1:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt  7:00 PM Easter Bonfire and fellowship  7:30 PM Easter Procession and Vigil
<b>17</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>  9:30 AM English Easter Celebration 11:00 AM German Easter Celebration 6:30 PM Evening Easter Celebration <b>All services with Holy Communion!</b>	<b>18</b>  7:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  9:30 AM Deans Meeting	<b>22</b>  <b>Earth Day</b>	<b>23</b>  9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
<b>24</b>  <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>  9:30 AM English Service 11:00 AM German Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  7:00 PM Finance Team Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Holocaust Remembrance Day</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  7:30 AM SEPA Synod Assembly  9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS  10:00 AM Cradles to Crayons