

# OCTOBER 2024

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## Immanuel Newsletter GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS

*Our mission is to connect people, especially adults,  
with God and with other people in order to achieve  
the highest possible level of the abundant life  
Jesus came to offer.*



### Reformation Sunday, October 27

**10:15 AM** - Worship Service  
with Holy Communion

Reception of new members and recognition of  
the 50th Anniversary of  
our Somerton Campus and the Immanuel German School

### Notes from Pastor Brown...

And we're off! I always know fall is coming, but it always hits me hard, even when I try to prepare to gear back up!

I hope you have been in the building **during September**. Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped plan and carry out events, especially Out to Lunch, farewell service and fellowship for our organist Karen, the Fall Bazaar, and the German service on the 29<sup>th</sup>. It not only takes a village to raise a child, but to carry out church events!



It was a busy September, and it is just becoming more so! **October brings** World Communion Sunday, Homebound Luncheon and worship, Trunk or Treat, and a special Reformation Service, in addition to all the regular meetings, weekly Bible Study, and anything else that may pop up! Plan to be present whenever you are able!

(continued...)

We are already planning for November and December! In June, my daughter tried to tell me that Christmas was just around the corner, but now it really is!

**The Transition Team** is planning an event to gather the additional information we need in order to complete the paperwork for the Synod to further the process of finding the next called pastor of Immanuel. Plan to be present on Sunday, November 10, and stay after worship, so your input can be counted on.

There are lots of opportunities for volunteering at Immanuel. Keep reading this newsletter to find out more.

I also remind you to make sure that if someone in your family is hospitalized or ill, please let me or the church office know. Also, let us know how we can support you from the church during this time.

As always, I close with our transition prayer:

*Oh God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

My door is always open. Stop in when we are in the building together or make an appointment to see me!

Blessings on the journey,  
Pastor Brown

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## Bible Study

Many of you who completed the questionnaires with council members earlier this year said you are interested in Bible study.

We are studying the book of Daniel, and you have three options to join: Wednesday mornings at 10:30 AM in person in the parlor or on Zoom, and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM on Zoom. The Zoom link is the same one used for Sunday morning worship.



## Keep in mind...

If you are so inclined, please remember Immanuel in your will. Along the same lines, if you would like memorials to be given to Immanuel, please let your next of kin know your wishes.



**Do you have a Thrivent product** (insurance policy, investment, etc.)? Did you know that you are eligible to apply for two gift cards each year to help with church projects and events? Also, you have an additional annual opportunity to contribute charitable dollars to an organization of your choice. See Barbara Hannon for more information about this.



## Spotlight on... Spiritual Ministry

The goal of the Spiritual Ministry Team is to deepen our relationship with God and strengthen our walk with Jesus Christ. Our planning for the coming year will focus on worship, Bible study and book clubs, prayer groups, spiritual support groups, workshop and retreat opportunities, and other activities that will enrich and enhance the spiritual life of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

In this newsletter, we detail new (or renewed) opportunities in need of participants! Read to learn about our Lay Communion Ministry and Prayer Chain Ministry. We are also planning to bring handbells and the choir back to our worship service. Bible study continues on Wednesdays.

If you would like to join the Spiritual Ministry Team, please reach out to either:  
Pastor Brown or Jim Clements

A prayer chain is a group of people who share prayer requests and commit to pray for needs as they arise. It's called a "prayer chain" because the individual members are "linked" by prayer, and requests make their way from one person to another, along the "chain." In a prayer chain, each link represents one person committed to pray for the needs of others. The more "links" in the chain, the more people are praying for the needs or struggles of others. The imagery of a chain also underscores the strength of God's people who are united in prayer.



Those who participate in a prayer chain commit to pray for whatever need arises, when it arises. When one person receives a prayer request, he or she calls the next person in the prayer chain to relay the message which is then passed along the chain. These requests may also be sent via text message or email.

In short, a prayer chain is a group of people who have volunteered to pray for one another and encourage others to pray. They are the "minutemen" of prayer, ready at a moment's notice to pray for whatever need develops. Their commitment creates a chain, long and strong, of praying saints. Our prayers are made in the confidence that things will always work out according to God's will. When we see answers to prayer, the prayer chain then becomes a "praise chain," and that's a beautiful thing to see.

**If you are interested in becoming a link (member) in the prayer chain,** please contact either:  
Pastor Brown or Jim Clements

## Immanuel's Lay Communion Ministry

The **Lay Communion Ministry** provides communion for members of our congregation who are unable to attend worship. Following a communion service, Lay Communion Ministers distribute the elements of bread and wine to the ill or homebound. Communion is delivered wherever the individuals reside. This process maintains a clear and strong connection between members of our congregation who are assembled in worship and those who are unable to be with us at our table of fellowship.



Volunteers for the Lay Communion Ministry will receive special training and instructions from Pastor Brown. Following training, volunteers would take communion to members following the service or during the coming week. A home communion kit makes transportation of the elements very easy.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Lay Communion Ministry of Immanuel, please contact Pastor Brown or Jim Clements

### Ring...



In October and November, we will introduce our handbells and choir voices during worship time. Of course, we need willing volunteers to make this happen. Please check out the bells on display before or after worship and sign up if interested. Also, sign up to sing in our make-shift choir.

We hope to introduce our bells at worship on October 20 and our voices on Reformation Sunday.

### or Sing



### Homebound Luncheon and Worship



The Supportive Service to Home and Facility Bound Ministry Team is planning another luncheon for the homebound and those unable to attend worship for **Tuesday, October 22nd at 12:00 noon.**

Pastor Brown will have a short service with communion. A lunch of soup and sandwiches will follow.

Anyone needing a ride or interested in coming should contact the church office (215-464-1540).



If you move, change your phone number or email, please let the church office know so we can update our records.

**Saturday, October 5**

**9:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Please take advantage of the opportunity to learn how to knit or crochet. We are happy to teach you. All you need to bring is your desire to learn -- supplies are provided.

Also, bring any blankets you have completed, and Linus labels will be attached. Help is needed to sew on labels and tie fleece blankets.

Please mark your calendar to join us for this rewarding, social gathering. Any questions, contact Barbara Hannon or Alma Dallas.



**Project  Linus**

***Donations of yarn are welcome,  
and always appreciated!***



**IN CHRISTIAN  
SYMPATHY**

In sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life, we announce the death of **Helga Wright** on September 8. Her funeral was held at Immanuel on September 17. Please pray for Helga's family and friends.



**Saturday, October 26**

**3:30 – 5:30 PM**



This event is open to our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews as well as children from the local community.

There will be decorated trunks providing treats for all the children dressed in costumes. Immanuel will be providing the treats!

In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

This is an enjoyable event and there is always room for more cars. If you could make time to join us with a decorated trunk, please contact Marion Morris.



Our Immanuel church family donated \$1,540 for Seafarers' Christmas-At-Sea.

A \$250 Thrivent grant was used to buy hooded sweatshirts, t-shirts, and socks from the Seafarers' Amazon Wishlist.

Thank you to all who donated!

*thank you*

*October is  
Tackling Hunger Month.*

**Please continue to support our local food banks.** The holiday season is approaching, which can be especially difficult for families in need.

Please bring your nonperishable donations to worship on Sundays.



*Dear Pastor Brown and congregation,*

*Many thanks for a lovely send off. I felt like I was leaving my parents, the congregation was so sweet.*

*It was fun working with you.....*

*Love,  
Karen*

Send her a note or card when you think of her!



# Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!



**Sunday, September 8 was “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday.** After the service, we had volunteers help with two projects in the Fellowship Hall.

The first project was planned by our Service to Others Ministry. Volunteers assembled 75 breakfast bags which were donated to Caring for Friends. Sally Sears delivered these filled breakfast bags.

The second project was planned by our Socialization Ministry. The team had asked for donations to put together snack baskets. We were overwhelmed and thankful for all the generous donations. TEN gift baskets were created by the volunteers. Chris Blankenhorn and Marion Morris delivered two baskets each to the local police department, two fire stations, Accela Rehab and Care Center and the Veterans Hospital. All of the recipients appreciated the baskets!

Thank you to everyone who donated food items for this project! A *big* thank you for the volunteers who helped on September 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Reminder: **Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends is October 22 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM**

A \$5.00 donation will purchase a shopping pass for the entire day and you will receive 25% off the lowest sale prices for your in-store and online purchases! For online discount, a one-time use unique code is provided on each shopping pass.

Tickets are on sale now! Please see Christine Blankenhorn if you would like to purchase a shopping pass.



### Help us keep our Prayer List up to date!

If you would like the members and friends of Immanuel to pray for you or a loved one, please let us know. Requests will remain on our list for four weeks.

Contact the church office or  
Carrie Cook



Have you noticed that each week we pray for one of the other congregations in the Lower Bucks Conference?

Our Dean puts out a prayer calendar, and all the congregations pray for one another. It is a way of keeping us connected.

# OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>  1:30 PM Supportive Service to Home and Facility Bound Ministry Team	<b>2</b>  10:30 AM Bible Study  7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)  7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  9:30 AM Project Linus  9:30 AM Immanuel German School
<b>6</b>  <b>World Communion Sunday</b>  10:15 AM Worship Service With Holy Communion	<b>7</b>  7:00 PM Socialization Ministry Team	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  10:30 AM Bible Study  7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)  7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  9:30 AM Immanuel German School
<b>13</b>  <b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>  10:15 AM Worship Service with Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Memorial Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  10:30 AM Bible Study  7:00 PM Girl Scouts  7:00 PM Congregation Council	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  9:30 AM Immanuel German School
<b>20</b>  <b>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>  10:15 AM Worship Service	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  8:00 AM Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day  12:00 Noon Homebound Service and Luncheon  7:00 PM Finance Team	<b>23</b>  10:30 AM Bible Study  7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)  7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  9:30 AM Immanuel German School  3:30 PM Trunk or Treat
<b>27</b>  <b>Reformation Sunday</b> <b>WEAR RED</b>  10:15 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  10:30 AM Bible Study  7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)  7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>31</b>		