

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5701 LOCH RAVEN BOULEVARD
BALTIMORE, MD 21239

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuellutheran.org

OCTOBER 2023

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL: In addition to the in-person services, all Services are live streamed also. The live stream is available at the following Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqkp9bt5FmMFDmfW0QNplUw/videos>

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL

October 1

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

Psalms 25:1–10

Philippians 2:1–4 (5–13) 14–18

Matthew 21:23–27 (28–32)

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“When a wicked person turns . . . he shall save his life.”

“Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love.”

“Look . . . to the interests of others.”

Jesus and the elders; parable of the man with two sons

The way of Christ stands firm against all transgressions. God's chosen, sinful people frequently gripe, complain, and hurl insults against God, daring to challenge His authority. But God heartily desires that His people would be transformed with a new heart and a new spirit. His way is one of comfort, love, affection, sympathy, and joy. God's people receive all of this incredible goodness when they turn from transgressions, confess guilt, acknowledge His authority, and receive His grace.

October 8

Isaiah 5:1–7

Psalms 80:7–19

Philippians 3:4b–14

Matthew 21:33–46

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Song of the vineyard

“You brought a vine out of Egypt.”

“Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

Tenants of the vineyard

God mightily delivered Israel to the Promised Land, but the Israelites were also indicted for their profound rebellion. Resolute confidence as God's elect is laid to waste in the wake of overwhelming sin. Paul's confidence was not in his genealogy but rather grounded in his resolute faith in Christ, through whom we receive every bit of righteousness and grace. Jesus is God's own Son, sent amid conspirators and murderers to face death that we may inherit life.

October 15

Isaiah 25:6–9

Psalms 23

Philippians 4:4–13

Matthew 22:1–14

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord will prepare a feast.

“I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

“Rejoice in the Lord.”

Parable of the wedding banquet

The Lord prepares a feast of divine nourishment for His people and cloaks us with His righteousness. As recipients of His wealth of grace and mercy, we ought to rejoice with unrelenting gladness. Yet there are times when even the chosen, the elect, the invited discount the very invitation and refuse to heed His Word of indisputable truth. Rejection of Jesus brings condemnation and wrath. But nourishment in His Word and Sacrament beget life and forgiveness.

October 22

Isaiah 45:1–7

Psalm 96:1–9 (10–13)

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Matthew 22:15–22

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

“I am the Lord.”

“Ascribe to the Lord glory.”

“He has chosen you.”

Give to God what is God’s.

Creation is bathed in light and darkness, subject to chaos and order. But in all things, God calls, equips, creates, and makes things well. The culmination of His divine care is Jesus—the One whose Word unleashes pure Gospel, unmasks pharisaical deception, acknowledges secular authority, and yet infuses into mankind unrelenting hope, steadfast faith, and incredible mercy. Believers cling to these God-given things in the midst of all wrath and affliction, confident in salvation through Christ alone.

October 29

Revelation 14:6–7

Psalm 46

Romans 3:19–28

John 8:31–36

or Matthew 11:12–19

Reformation Day (Observed)

“Fear God and give Him glory.”

“God is our refuge and strength.”

“One is justified by faith.”

“The truth will set you free.”

The Law leaves us speechless, for it condemns us and holds us accountable to God. By the Law, every sin is unmasked, every sinner declared guilty. In Christ, by His blood, we receive faith. This faith justifies us apart from the works of the Law. Thanks be to God that Christ gives us this Gospel. By it, sin is forgiven and sinners declared innocent. This is our freedom in Christ proclaimed throughout every nation, tribe, language, and people.

Ministry Notes

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Discernment Session 1**

You spoke and we listened! Twenty -seven members or friends of Immanuel gathered two weeks ago for the initial Discernment Session. After hearing words from Pastor Elliott Robertson that would focus us on this task, small group discussions took place under the broad parameter of how we might proceed in a way to bring new ministry opportunities to us. The small group discussions focused on Staffing, Property, and Mission. These topics are not considered as equal with Mission being the essence of what we are about. Staffing and Property are added as most of the congregation’s financial resources are expended in these two areas. The notes recorded during these discussions that are presented below have not been edited or summarized and can be considered as six pages of “raw data” that has been collected. The next step is for the Steering Committee to begin to sort, summarize, and refine the thoughts that were shared into a comprehensive report to the congregation.

A new “Discernment” email address has been set up to be used to provide everyone the opportunity to participate

as the Discernment process continues. The new address is ilcdiscernment@gmail.com , You are encouraged to use this new address in the following ways:

- To request a copy of the raw data that was distributed during the announcements at church on Sunday, September 24.
- To provide those who participated in the discussions an opportunity to bring forth additional ideas regarding future ministry at Immanuel.
- To provide an opportunity for those who were not able to participate in the discussions on September 16 an opportunity to share their thoughts.

Please share any information that you would like to provide on or before Friday, October 6. After this time, the Discernment Steering Committee will address the process of sorting and classifying the raw data looking for common initiatives or themes after which a presentation of the results to date will be provided to the congregation.

If you have any questions on Discernment at Immanuel, please contact a member of the Discernment Steering Committee:

Pastor Minetree, Steve Heemann, Carolyn Henn, Nickel Lietzau, Mary Ruble

Discernment Session One Notes

Staffing

Job description of senior pastor to change to have 50% of time outside the building as Missionary to establish relationships and connect people to Christ. It would be the primary goal of these missionary activities to just share the good news, but with the additional objective to encourage people to come to Immanuel. Some tasks previously addressed by the pastor are redirected to lay persons.

Explore potential partnerships with other LCMS congregations in the Baltimore area to share staff. This would include sharing of pastors, church office staff, bookkeeping, and custodial staff. There could be three to six congregations that could work together with office, bookkeeping, and custodial staff.

Hire a new caretaker for the cemetery that is either a pastor or experienced in evangelism work. Job description of caretaker to include talking to those that walk through the cemetery about Jesus. Caretaker would also try to establish bible study or other groups that would meet at the caretakers house and offer an informal early morning service each Sunday from April through October.

Staff in each one of these functions – worship (worship leader), witness (help members to develop witnessing as a part of their daily life), education (bible study leaders), fellowship (ride to church program for those that cant drive), and service (everyone to volunteer for something to help get done what we decide to do.

Create volunteer network in support of the office staff that could help with the weekly bulletin, the Herald, and other large jobs.

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Think and do ministry with more of a multi-cultural awareness. For example, some programs and topics may be written by white folks that seem fine to them, but African Americans or other ethnic groups see them not to apply to them. Be intentional about this using minorities in pictures and materials.

Outsource secretarial, bookkeeping, and custodial staff.

Answer the question, if you had no staff, what would you do? Who would you hire? What would their job description be?

Need better and more consistent communication directed toward both members and nonmembers. This includes web site, email, and signage or posters in places where they can be displayed. If you asked a person on the street what they know about Immanuel, most people would not know much. Creating awareness will trickle down to greater potential of visitors.

Communication – how do we communicate what we're about to those driving by?

- Proponent of an electronic sign with scrolling messages
- Other ways to communicate to those externally that we're welcoming
- How do we communicate what we're about? Ex. Community garden

New lay people identified to help Pastor Minetree lead worship, create bible study opportunities, and be very relational.

Property

How does God want us to use this space for his purpose? Need to figure it out.

Redesignate the former endowment funds) so that all earnings would be used to support expenses related to include maintenance as well as dollars expended in order to use the building. The idea would be to set this up as a perpetual care fund for the current building. This would mean that the property related budget line items, such as utilities, the water bill, insurance, maintenance, repairs, depreciation, and loan payments on loans that were necessary for property improvements or repairs would be separated from the operating budget and funded in this manner. In addition, we'd bring in the LCMS Foundation gift planner in our area (former SED President John Denninger) to work with our members to set up a gift to ILC and this ILC Perpetual care fund as part of their will. We would also suggest that general memorial gifts or other special gift to Immanuel be directed to this fund. Funds from rental payments for other ministries that use our building would also go into this fund. Proceeds from the sale of the lot could also be applied here.

MedStar/Good Sam would love to have a community space.

- Opportunity to partner with MedStar
- (Denise Adah knows CEO of MedStar)

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Lutheran Church downtown built lower income housing/apartment complex.

- Have huge revenue coming to the church – so much that members don't give pledges Sell the land that we own on Loch Raven Blvd in support of a new ministry. (Could also be used to support the perpetual care fund).

North lawn empty – what to do with it?

Develop it? Build

Zoning issue – would need to be changed)

Hire a property manager to maximize the use of our space as far as rental income and be on top of all necessary maintenance and repairs. Consider making Teresa the property manager and backfill with volunteers to complete as much as possible of what Teresa does now.

Merge with another LCMS church in our area.

Merge with any willing church notwithstanding the denomination as long as it is Christian.

Use former school space for a new charter school.

It is a gorgeous building – welcoming. Beautiful building but brings a sadness of what it used to be – see it breaking down. It is just a building, the real church is the people

Building will stand for another thousand years – Butler stone

Dismayed when talking about selling the property and moving

- How can we ensure that this is a church in a thousand years?
- Want to look into declaring building a “historic” building so that it can't be changed

Property is a puzzle – no longer use the school

Separate or close off school section?

Sell or use North lot – drain on church

If sold, only a one-time cash infusion – or develop for long term lease.

Need to think outside the box

Need to market property and advertise

Update website to market for building use

Outside caterer for events to generate revenue

- Ex. Martin's West – started just renting the hall then after a few years build kitchen – small steps to Rent Conference Room as a meeting room Fellowship Hall could be a money maker

Need to just spruce up a little bit – can't be an eye sore

- Trim hedges
- Pull weeds
- Pick up trash in grass and around property
- Ask people to do the little things

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The property needs to be kept up.

Frustrated with deterioration of the church. But the people are always impressed when they walk into the sanctuary. There's a book currently w/ Deborah Thomas listing all the things that need to be fixed.

Use our vacant lot to construct a community park, a prayer circle (labrince?), or something else.

Want to see Immanuel put on CHAP List

- Committee Historical Architectural Preservation in Baltimore (Sandy)
- Would need nuggets of information
- Need to think about protecting the building from development
- With State or Local historic designation, can change the inside but can't alter the exterior
- Sandy wants to research more about CHAP List

Cemetery- statues are beautiful

- put Cemetery on CHAP List?
- Known as the “German Cemetery” Coordinate with local businesses and not for profit organizations to publicize Immanuel's facility as meeting space or seminar space.

Erect a new electronic sign on the corner to publicize ILC to the thousands of people who drive by or ride by in a bus. Incorporate some type of regular emphasis (such as a bible verse of the day or a thought for the day) so that people will look to see what is on the sign each day as they pass.

North Lot: Good Sam medical center for doctors - medical offices – rent to MedStar/Good Sam

Original plans for ILC was to have a corridor connecting to another building on that portion of the property

Electronic sign out front - daily message - give taste of God's word

Use part of the rear parking lot to build a playground for the community. .

Need to develop multiple strategies for us to bring mission to others

Promote our 100 year old organ - concert series

Mission

Rebuild and properly maintain the ILC web site. Increase awareness of the site and publicize it to invite potential visitors.

Pastor to have a new missionary part time to fill the seats and encourage membership at Immanuel. This would be funded via a new mission funding campaign.

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Expand the Compassion Center as a mission to the congregation. Publicize it jointly with the LRIA. Increase volunteer staff from ILC. Contact City and County public schools and private schools and promote the Compassion Center as a source of service hours that many students need to graduate.

Recognizing that Immanuel Lutheran School served as a mission that brought children and their families into the building, many of whom ended up joining the church, establish a new children's ministry. This could be in the form of a reinvented Sunday School perhaps publicized as the LRIA Sunday School or the LRIA Before and After School Center as examples.

Work with local medical providers to use Immanuel as a location for health fairs at different times of the year – outside during warmer months and inside during the colder months.

Jesus used ordinary people to do extraordinary things – was about bringing people together.

Ask God to guide us – how does it translate to our community. Ordinary people made a difference.

Leverage Facebook – need more sharing and more posts – have people change to “public” for specific posts

Need website up to date with events

- Pictures, tour of the building
- Welcoming message, invite
- Who can we engage to have links to our website?
- Ex. Wedding search website
- Gary: MarylandPartyLive - \$40

Evaluate the mission work of Pastor Witt in the context of what can be learned from from it.

Always meet and greet visitors. Have organ not be so loud as now you can't talk to them.

Call older members; call former members; reach out to others.

We should all conduct a bible study “where we are”, in our homes at lunch time where we work, after we finish exercising at the gym, etc) Think outside the box.

Pastor Croll and prison visit /ministry - great need- could we adopt someone in prison or some other avenue?

We have 5 settings for our service - prayers come from LCMS - should be taken another step - request needs of congregation - things within our inner city that need prayers - no meaning to prayers - just reciting and repetitious - on auto-pilot.

It should appear that the service be structured to enable members to worship, sing fervently, and participate to the fullest which will make it easier for visitors and perspective members to join in. When hymns are hard to sing - teach the hymns ahead of time so members and visitors can participate. Or select the more familiar hymns so we can sing enthusiastically and not have it sound like the organ is playing by itself.

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Sermon should have something in it for visitors or people that do not know Jesus.

Fully develop a strategy to capitalize on the fact that the Choral Arts Society Christmas concert is being held at Immanuel. Distribute information on the church to non-members who attended and retain a list of attendees and follow up on them with a Christmas card and a phone call.

Create Lutheran "cathedral" - concerts - symphony, Bach society, etc.

Invite former members to specific events/services, i.e., Natl Lutheran Schools Week -invite former students or youth groups.

Track anniversaries of baptisms/weddings/etc - send cards, invitations to service.

Pray with others -"I am an introvert but have been developed by the Holy Spirit and am happy to pray with others."

Invite other school/college choirs to sing at Immanuel.

The formality of church can be offsetting to others, esp. youth.

Develop a "real" publicity campaign - good PR, advertised, TV

Loving Loch Raven - need ambassadors for Immanuel at local events. Should have pamphlet available.

Music after church TOO loud to allow fellowship- people leave immediately.

I come to church to be nourished; to be an ambassador for Christ, pray with others. Only God can convert. When sense of mission and witness is within you God takes over from there.

Fellowship from Immanuel - remembers handing out water on corner. Co-workers aware of her church.

It's important to be better outside of church.

Taking those in need to medical appointments. Offer to pray for them.

Trying to speak less and listen more.

Seek to become the Face of Immanuel -

Caring committee and card ministry reaches many. Perhaps track anniversaries of baptisms and weddings. Sometimes never see these people again.

Offer a service such as tutoring at no charge.

All things going on in our church should be made known - so much behind the scenes.

ANNOUNCEMENT from MARYLAND LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Come Join Us to see what Maryland Lutherans for Life is all about!

The Maryland chapter of Lutherans for Life (MDLFL) formed more than five years ago to assist local congregations in building *Life Teams* or individuals in being *Life Advocates*, equipped to be a Gospel-motivated voice for a variety of life issues.

In addition to materials for people in crisis considering abortion, we can also direct congregations and individuals to Scripture-based resources on a variety of life issues, including substance addictions, end-of-life issues, human-trafficking, abuse, helping new mothers, birth control, abstinence, gambling addiction, suicide, and other sanctity of life topics.

Our next gathering will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in *Catonsville*, MD on Saturday, November 11th from 10am-noon. Come a little early to enjoy some coffee and refreshments. Stay to hear presentations by:

- Irene Giguere on the ministry and service activities of Orphan Grain Train, and
- Maryland State Delegate Kathy Szeliga on life-related issues in Maryland legislation. All attendees are asked to **bring diaper donations** for Women's Center West the Catonsville Pregnancy Center. To learn more about us or contact us, visit: www.mdfl.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 9 am to 1 pm IMMANUEL LUTHERAN FLEA MARKET. Set up 8 am. Spots (10 x 10 ft) \$10; table \$10. Reservation forms available in Church office. Reservation deadline Thursday, October 12th. More information call church office 410-435-6861.

Tuesday, October 31st is Trunk or Treat at Immanuel. Join us by decorating your car trunk in a (not too scary) Halloween theme. Bring candy or another handout for the children who will stop by. This gives kids a safe place to trick or treat. It gives us an opportunity to meet folks in our community. The event will be 6 pm to 8 pm in our rear parking lot. If you cannot attend but wish to help you may donate

candy or other handouts. See Pastor Minetree for details.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH. Shrimp Feast/Bull Roast to benefit Immanuel Lutheran 'Til All Have Heard Mission. 1-5 p.m., Rosedale Gardens, 8037 Philadelphia Road. Music provided by the Reputations. Raffle tickets available (winner does not need to be present to win). Tickets \$45/person; call Denise Waicker 443-981-0019 or Gary Stratemeyer 443-827-6958 for tickets.

Like to Sing? Sing with us!

Please join us **THURSDAY** evenings starting September 7 from 7:00 pm to 8:00pm in the Sanctuary. You do not need to be able to read music, just blend your voices with ours! Please see Muriel Hopkins after Church or call her anytime at 410-207-0831.



(Sept – Dec)

CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like a special arrangement, the procedure is to call Denise Waicker at (443) 981-0019 or Denisewaicker@mac.com. Denise needs to know the date you select and the statement you want to include so that she can order the flowers for that Sunday. The cost depends on your selection. Pay by cash or check (make payable to *Denise Waicker*) and give to Denise Waicker in person or mail checks via the postal service.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

-Heavenly Father, we pray that You be glorified through the effort of our 'Til All Have Heard Ministry. Guide us and Pastor Witt as we seek and pursue avenues to declare that Your Kingdom is coming clearly and powerfully. Give us the opportunity to plant, water, and harvest for Your Kingdom according to Your will, and grant patience to wait on Your timing and purposes. Lord, in Your mercy/Let us pray to the Lord

- For peace in Ukraine
- Dottie Friant who is at Good Samaritan Hospital rehab unit
- Robert Sigler, Rita Alcarese's daughter's father-in-law, diagnosed with cancer
- Ryan Schwartz, who broke his neck in a diving accident
- April as she does her job search to get closer to home

- Kay Lietzau recovering from TIA
- Elaine Schwab, who had foot surgery on September 5
- Ray Ward recovering from knee surgery
- Harry Bortner who has cancer
- April's dad, for continued good health. The doctor's found left over cancer cells.
- Bradley Will, son of Ray, who is losing his battle with cancer
- Naomi for health issues and John Kruelle battling cancer
- Diana, friend of Denise Waicker, who has been diagnosed with cancer
- Rosemarie Wilson, the daughter of Filleseta James, for return of strength in her left leg
- Bill Hermann
- Joseph Woah-tee missing, and whereabouts **unknown**

Birthdays:

- 1 Sarah Lietzau
- 2 Elizabeth Flaherty
Jeannine Nash
- 7 Emmaus Witt
- 8 Ryan Heemann
- 10 Rick McDonnell
- 11 Najet Huhra
- 18 Nazareth Witt
- 19 Jeffrey Goeller
Albert Lietzau, IV
- 25 Facia BellePu
- 26 Stacey Dietrich
Elizabeth Nobbs
- 27 Ava Beatty
- 28 Manix Paye, Jr.

Anniversaries:

- 11 Gabriel & Moni Tenabe

CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE				
	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Liturgist	Communion Assistant
October 1	Sheila Gordon/ Laura Pickering	Rick Kruelle		
October 8		Mary Ruble		
October 15		Gerhard Ehlerding		
October 22		Sandy Collins		
October 29		June Dennis		

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 pm Christ Eritrean	2 6:30 pm Book of Revelation Bible Class	3	4	5 6 pm Basics of the Christian Faith 7 pm Choir practice sanctuary	6	7 10 am G Boys
8 9 am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 pm Christ Eritrean	9 6:30 pm Book of Revelation Bible Class	10	11 Noon Bible study and lunch 6:30 pm LRIA BoD	12 7 pm Choir practice sanctuary	13	14 9 am Flea market (Upper parking lot) 10 am Real Wings 10 am Compassion Center
15 9 am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 pm Christ Eritrean	16 6:30 pm Book of Revelation Bible Class	17 7 pm LRIA Gen'l mtg	18 6 pm Council Meeting	19 7 pm Choir practice sanctuary	20	21
22 9 am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 pm Christ Eritrean	23 6:30 pm Book of Revelation Bible Class	24	25 Noon Bible study and lunch	26 7 pm Choir practice sanctuary	27	28 10 am Compassion Center
29 REFORMATION DAY OBSERVED 9 am Adult Bible Study Sunday School 10 am Worship & Holy Communion 12 pm Christ Eritrean	30 6:30 pm Book of Revelation Bible Class	31 6 pm Trunk or Treat				

The Baltimore Bulletin Insert

October 2023

Events of area LCMS churches, entities, and Recognized Service Organizations
Deadline for September edition: October 20th

MEDICAL WALKOUT PROGRAM *Orphan Grain Train, Millersville*
Wheelchairs, hospital beds, and other medical equipment available, upon request. Pick up at warehouse, 621 East West Blvd., on Tue. 9a-12 or 5-7p., 410.417.9674

CHRISTIAN LIFE RETREAT *LWML Chesapeake District*
Oct. 20-22, Carousel Resort Hotel, Ocean City, MD. Theme: Measured By Grace. Registration \$180, by Oct 9.
Info: www.lwmlchesapeake.org/district-christian-life-retreat.html

LUTHERAN BOOKS AND BEER GROUP *St. Paul, Catonsville*
Oct. 26, 7p, The Rathskeller, Elkridge. We read: The Screwtape Letters from a Lutheran vantage point, w/ good beer, food, fellowship.

TRUNK OR TREAT *St. Paul, Catonsville*
Sat. Oct. 28 3-4p

SHRIMP FEAST/BULL ROAST *Immanuel Lutheran, Baltimore*
Sat Nov 4. Benefits 'Til All Have Heard Mission. 1-5p Held at Rosedale Gardens, 8037 Philadelphia Rd. Music by the Reputations Tickets \$45/person: Denise Waicker 443-981-0019 or Gary Stratemeyer 443-827-6958.

ANNUAL DINNER *Lutheran Mission Society*
Sun., Nov. 5, 2-5p. Kurtz' Beach, Pasadena. Tickets 410.636.0123 or tickets@compassionplace.org.

THANKSGIVING DINNER *St. Thomas Lutheran, Carrollton Ridge*
Free to all. Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 12:30-3:00. Volunteer to cook turkeys, donate food, do prep work, serve on Thanksgiving Day. Monetary donations offer flexibility to purchase items not given. Contact Cricket at St.ThomasLutheran@yahoo.com or 443.629.7117.

Help Wanted...

PART TIME OFFICE ADMIN AND ORGANIST *First Ev. Lutheran, Odenton*
For more information call 410.672.3352 or churchoffice@felodenton.org.

AN INTEREST MEETING *MD Lutherans For Life*
Nov. 11, at St. Paul, Catonsville

This insert only happens because your church submits items.
A service of The Wyneken Project, appreciating the fellowship we share.
Submit your event to Secretary@MartiniLutheran.org
For locations of churches see LCMS.org > Locators & Directories