

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

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

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuellutheran.org

APRIL 2020

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL: All Services are live streamed only until further notice. The live stream is available over Immanuel Lutheran Church, Baltimore's Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/Immanuel-Lutheran-Church-Baltimore-MD-259497214072957/>). Lent Services are available over Pastor Minetree's Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/charles.minetree>).

April 5

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:1-27:66

Palm Sunday

*"Who is my adversary?"
"He became obedient to death."
The betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus Christ*

April 9

Exodus 24:3-11
Hebrews 9:11-22
Matthew 26:17-30

Maundy Thursday

*Moses seals the covenant between God and the Israelites.
"[Christ] is the mediator of a new covenant."
Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper.*

April 10

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1 – 19:42

Good Friday

*"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows."
"We have a great high priest."
The crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ*

April 12

Acts 10:34-43 or
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

The Resurrection of Our Lord

*"We are witnesses of all He did."
"I have loved you with an everlasting love."
"Set your minds on things above...your life is hidden with Christ in God."
The resurrection of Jesus Christ*

April 19

Acts 5:29-42
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Second Sunday of Easter

*"They did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus."
"He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."
Jesus appears to the disciples and to Thomas.*

April 26

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 1:17-25
Luke 24:13-35

Third Sunday of Easter

*"Repent and be baptized."
"You were redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ."
The road to Emmaus*

On the first Sunday of our return to worshipping at our building, we will celebrate EASTER. It is not cancelled. Jesus has Risen!

Lord, have mercy, when we cannot gather for Holy Communion

The Lutheran Church is a Church of Word and Sacrament. We believe that a Sacrament needs specific components to be a sacrament. The first is the command of Jesus that we should observe the Sacrament. The second is specific Word of God consecrates a physical element (water, bread, and wine). Finally the Sacrament actually gives the forgiveness of sins. During this time when we should not gather together in physical groups we do not have access to the Lord's Supper. We can, however, recall with thanksgiving and joy what we are given in the Sacrament of Baptism. Below are the Christian Questions and Answer from Luther's Small Catechism to aid you in this remembrance.

Question

What does Baptism give? What good is it?

Answer

It gives the forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the Devil, gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as God's words and promises declare.

Question

What are these words and promises of God?

Answer

Our Lord Christ spoke one of them in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be damned."

Question

How can water do such great things?

Answer

Water doesn't make these things happen, of course. It is God's Word, which is with and in the water. Because, without God's Word, the water is plain water and not baptism. But with God's Word it is a Baptism, a grace-filled water of life, a bath of new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul said to Titus in the third chapter: "Through this bath of rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit, which He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that we, justified by the same grace are made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying."

Question

What is the meaning of such a water Baptism?

Answer

It means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and die with all sins and evil lusts, and, in turn, a new person daily come forth and rise from death again. He will live forever before God in righteousness and purity.

Question

Where is this written?

Answer

St. Paul says to the Romans in chapter six: "We are buried with Christ through Baptism into death, so that, in the same way Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, thus also must we walk in a new life."

Morning Prayer

My Heavenly Father, I thank You, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, that You kept me safe from all evil and danger last night. Save me, I pray, today as well, from every evil and sin, so that all I do and the way that I live will please you. I put myself in your care, body and soul and all that I have. Let Your holy Angels be with me, so that the evil enemy will not gain power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer

My Heavenly Father, I thank You, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, that You have protected me, by Your grace. Forgive, I pray, all my sins and the evil I have done. Protect me, by Your grace, tonight. I put myself in your care, body and soul and all that I have. Let Your holy angels be with me, so that the evil enemy will not gain power over me. Amen.

A Brief Liturgy for Individual and Family Devotion

Invocation: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reading of the Psalm: see The Divine Service at Immanuel in this publication.

The Reading of the Lessons for the Week: see The Divine Service at Immanuel in this publication. In addition to the chart, the daily lectionary readings for series A can be found in The Lutheran Service Book and online. In addition to the lectionary, the appointed hymn of the day can also be found in the LSB.

Reflection and Prayer as one dwells on the readings.

The Apostles' Creed

Prayers for Self and Others

The Lord's Prayer

The Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer

The Blessing: The Grace of my Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be always with me. Amen

Ministry Notes

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

All ministry events (Worship, Bible Studies, Compassion Center, Choir Practice, etc) will not be available at the Immanuel Building. The Divine Service will be live streamed on Sundays (now from Pastor Minetree's home) at 10 am. Lenten (Wednesday, 4/1) and Holy Week (Maundy Thursday 4/9 and Good Friday, 4/10) services will be livestreamed over Immanuel's or Pastor Minetree's Facebook page (facebook.com/charles.minetree) at 12 pm. Recorded versions will be available after the live stream on the same Facebook pages. Praise God for His gift of technology.

YOUR PLEDGE AND OFFERING

Immanuel's leadership reminds you that your offering is still essential to our congregation. We continue to support our pastors and staff. Even though the building is empty, there are still obligations to meet. We ask that you do what you can to honor your pledges. Electronic giving through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund giving program is strongly encouraged. Please call Laura Higgins for more information on setting up this account. You may also use US Mail services to send in your offering. There is also a donate button on our website (immanuellutheran.org). Thank You.

Laura Higgins contact information during quarantine:

Cell Phone: 410-227-5316

Home Phone: 443-402-0176

Home address: 680 Kirkcaldy Way, Abingdon, MD 21009

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

Pastor Minetree is working from home most of the time to honor the "social distancing" requests made by Governor Hogan. He is still available by phone and text

messages (443-615-4852), email (cminetree@verizon.net), and Facebook (facebook.com/charles.minetree). Pastor is available for emergencies or just a friendly chat. Pastor will visit at your home or elsewhere at your request. Please know he is praying for you, our nation, and our world for relief during this pandemic.

THE CHURCH THAT CAN'T CLOSE

The buildings have been empty. Now even Pastors won't be there with the new order. The halls are quiet, the lights are off, the doors are locked. But the church is not closed. The buildings may be closed and empty, but the church is open. Always. Christ's hands are open. Always. The body of Christ is the people opened toward the world. Always.

As long as Christ lives the church is open. The Immanuel building is temporarily closed. The Immanuel Church is eternally open, because our lives are eternal.

"TIL ALL HAVE HEARD " MISSION FUNDING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As you know, Immanuel proceeded with a divine Call to the Rev. Lucas Witt last October to be Missionary to Baltimore and Immanuel's Associate Pastor. This Call was extended when an overwhelming majority of those attending a Voters Assembly meeting and cast a vote to proceed with this mission strategy here at Immanuel. This Call was also extended with the understanding that a Mission Funding Campaign with the goal to raise a total of \$225,000 would be undertaken to provide funding for this new ministry which was to be outside of our regular church budget. The congregation also approved the plan

that any shortfalls in our fundraising efforts would result in utilizing the needed funds from the Endowment Fund.

The timetable for the Campaign was that it would begin in February and be completed with our Pledge Sunday on March 22. This original date was changed when the church's heating system failed in that both the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall space, which was temporarily not heated, would be needed for specific aspects of the Campaign. New revised date had the Mission Funding Campaign set to kick off on May 3 and conclude by June 14. With the continued outbreak and escalation of the spread of the Corona Virus, it appears that the revised dates of the Campaign of May 3 – June 14 will also not be possible and the Campaign would need to be pushed back until late summer or even to the Fall months.

Please continue to pray for this new ministry here at Immanuel and for Pastor Witt as he leads these missionary efforts. It is important to keep our focus and plans for the support of this ministry that we hope will be a significant piece of our future. In the time prior to the Campaign, gifts to the Missionary Ministry can be made using the special envelopes provide in the envelope boxes. We all look forward to the time that we can again gather for worship and kick off the Mission Funding Campaign so that others can be reached for Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Community Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Easter Sunday has been postponed.

COMPASSION CENTER NEWS

Until such time as the quarantine is lifted, Immanuel's Compassion Center is closed.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Please note that during the time of quarantine flowers will not be used in the streaming services. Please do not order them for the church. Also, Easter Flowers will not be ordered for proper date of Easter this year.

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 is \$20.00 for a Special Arrangement and \$40.00 for Altar Flowers. Pay by cash or check (made payable to the "Altar Guild") and give to Denise Waicker in person or mail checks via the postal service.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Bradley Will, who is being treated for cancer
- Amelia Mallonee
- Shawn Coffey, who has cancer
- Felecia Bokey, who is ill
- All those affected by COVID 19 in any way
- All those who must work during this plague
- All those who lead us and those who seek a relief and a cure for COVID 19

Birthdays:

- 3 Bruce Greensfelder
Yassah Kemezee
- 5 Christopher Minetree
- 10 Tom Manager
- 14 Benjamin Pfitzinger
- 15 Tonia Momo
- 18 Ellen Noel
- 19 Joan Goeller
Jeanne Pfitzinger
- 21 Elaine Mueller
Katelyn Griffin
- 22 Catherine Belz
Gwen Heemann
Moni Tenabe
- 23 Timothy Bardzik
- 27 Jormoh BellePu
Julie Goeller

Anniversaries:

- 6 Manix & Yassah Paye
- 11 Richard & Sharon Kruelle