

THE IMMANUEL HERALD

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

Visit Immanuel's website www.immanuellutheran.org

SEPTEMBER 2020

DIVINE SERVICE AT IMMANUEL: In addition to the in-person services, all Services are live streamed also. The live stream is available over Immanuel Lutheran Church, Baltimore's Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/Immanuel-Lutheran-Church-Baltimore-MD-259497214072957/>).

September 6

Ezekiel 33:7-9
Romans 13:1-10
Matthew 18:1-20

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*"Warn the wicked."
"There is no authority except from God."
"If your brother sins against you..."*

September 13

Genesis 50:15-21
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Joseph is reconciled to his brothers.
We belong to the Lord.
Parable of the unforgiving servant*

September 20

Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*"Seek the Lord."
"To live is Christ, and to die is gain."
Parable of the vineyard laborers*

September 27

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18
Matthew 21:23-27

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*"When a wicked person turns . . . he shall save his life."
"Look . . . to the interest of others."
Jesus and the elders; parable of the man with two sons*

Ministry Notes

IMMANUEL'S COVID 19 RESPONSE

Out of love and concern for fellow members and those who visit and use our facilities, we will maintain all of our pandemic special changes. Masks are required when in the building with other people present. Social distancing and numerical limitations will be maintained. Special changes to the Divine Service will remain in effect. Loving your neighbor can be as simple as following these guidelines.

ADULT SUNDAY AND ZOOM BIBLE CLASS

The Sunday morning Bible class over ZOOM continues. **The time that we meet is Sunday evening from 6 pm to 6:45 pm.** Our first topic is the Gospel of Luke. If you

would like to join the class in progress, please send an email to cminetree@verizon.net and you will be sent the access link and instructions. This class is not limited to Immanuel members.

A CHANGE IN SUNDAY'S BIBLE CLASS

Beginning September 13th, our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class will be moving to 9:00am. We will have "in person" class at Immanuel's Fellowship Hall and ZOOM streaming. Those who have been attending the ZOOM evening class will receive the now ZOOM link. If you would like to join the ZOOM Class, please send an email to cminetree@immanuellutheran.org to enroll and receive the link. Homework will still be emailed to all class

participants weekly. Printed copies can be made available to those who cannot print their own.

WEDNESDAY FACEBOOK LIVE BIBLE CLASS

Our Wednesday Bible Class will resume with the Book of James. This class will be live streamed over Immanuel's Facebook page at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning September 16th. The class will also be recorded and available at any time over the Facebook page and Immanuel's You Tube page. There will be no need to register for this class.

HOME COMMUNION AND PRIVATE CHURCH COMMUNION

Pastor Minetree has suspended home Communion visitation during the pandemic crisis unless requested by a family. Members of Immanuel may call Pastor at 443-615-4852 to request a home Communion Visit or a private Communion at Immanuel outside of Sunday Divine Service. This is available to members who also feel unsafe returning to Immanuel at this time. You may also email Pastor at cminetree@immanuellutheran.org to schedule a visit.

PASTOR MINETREE'S VACATION

Pastor Minetree will be on vacation September 21st through October 4th. Please contact Pastor Witt for pastoral care.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET PRESENCE TEAM

Pastor Minetree is assembling a team to improve and expand Immanuel's online presence. The expansion will include Bible Studies, Divine Services and Special services, Funeral services, Wedding services, Devotions by pastoral and lay members, Announcements and Commercials, Follow up on social media visitors, Children's Content. If you are interested in joining the team to write, present, perform, provide technical assistance, or add ideas send an email to cminetree@immanuellutheran.org.

MAIL DELIVERY DELAYS AND A NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR IMMANUEL

You are probably aware through recent news reports that the post office has experienced has problems with mail delivery on a timely basis. An example of this is that Immanuel recently received numerous pieces of mail that we sent first class and postmarked in early July, but not delivered to the church until the third week of August. Please be aware that anything that is mailed to the church is subject to this type of delay which results in frustration and inconvenience to both the church and the sender. In order to minimize or eliminate mail delivery problems,

Immanuel has opened a post office box and will pick up all mail directly from the post office from this box.

Effective immediately, it is requested that the following new mailing address be utilized for all mail coming to Immanuel:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
PO Box 666475
Baltimore, MD 21239

Thank You!

JOB OPENING FOR PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Laura Higgins, who has faithfully served Immanuel for 12 years as Administrative Assistant, has recently accepted a new full time position. We thank Laura for her service and support over these years and pray that she is blessed in her new role. We are also pleased that Laura will remain at Immanuel in a part time role and will continue to function as the church's bookkeeper as she has done for approximately the last 10 years.

The new administrative assistant position that we seek to fill is defined to be approximately 12 hours per week. If you know of someone that may be interested, please ask them to request an application by sending an email to ilcadmin@immanuellutheran.org or by calling the church office and leaving a voice mail.

As a result of this transition, until a new administrative assistant is hired, the church office phone will be unattended most of the time and you will need to leave a voice mail message when you call the church. These messages will be retrieved on a regular basis and return calls will be made. Please be patient during this interim time when no one is able to answer your call. In the case of an emergency, please feel free to call Pastor Minetree, Pastor Witt, or any church officer directly.

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM INSTALLATION UPDATE

The installation of Immanuel's new heating and air conditioning system continues with completion anticipated early this fall. Even though work to install the new system began early this summer, the existing air conditioning system has continued to be available. As the installation moves toward completion, the current air conditioning system will be removed and there will be no air conditioning in the sanctuary or fellowship hall. We hope that the anticipated cooler fall temperatures that are on the way will keep the church comfortable when air conditioning is not available.

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS AND LESSONS FOR 2020

Beginning in late September, Immanuel will celebrate a time of stewardship learning and reflection. This four week emphasis will begin on Sunday, September 27 with Consecration Sunday on Sunday October 18. Each week, we will direct our focus in a unique way to reflect on one of the following themes:

- Our greatest treasure and blessing, the kingdom of heaven.
- An awareness that stewardship is about the entire life of a Christian and not just about money.
- Stewardship of forgiveness and reconciliation - the greatest gift we can give to others.
- Stewardship of money. The greatest gift we have to give is the Gospel and Reconciliation. This puts money in its proper perspective.

Look for more information on the Fall 2020 stewardship emphasis coming soon.

Missionary Musings

With Skin On

Jesus is God with skin on. I can't remember where I read this idea, but it makes sense.

When he was incarnated into a zygote he began the process of being human in every physical way. Soon before birth, he had skin on.

The church has skin too. When people around the nation talk about Immanuel Lutheran Church, they are likely to mention beautiful stained-glass windows, historic building, the formative school, and frankly, the organ and Dr. Wegner always comes up eventually. But this description is on the *building* owned and used by Immanuel Lutheran Church for corporate worship and other activities. But *Immanuel Lutheran Church* itself has skin on. I mean cells, tissue, melanin, flesh, freckles, moles, all that stuff.

When we talk about what *Immanuel Lutheran Church* does, it is more than the Compassion Center, more than Vacation Bible School, more than hosting meetings. What Immanuel Lutheran Church does is what people with skin on do; What any active body part of Immanuel Lutheran does. Immanuel Lutheran has hands that send birthday cards. Immanuel Lutheran has arms that care for grandchildren. Immanuel Lutheran has legs employed at hospitals and real estate firms. Immanuel Lutheran has

feet that mow grass. Immanuel Lutheran has mouths that smile and say hello to "strangers" and neighbors on the street. Immanuel Lutheran has fingers that share baked goods.

Do you get my drift? At some point we equated working in the building as working for God, have and slowly forgotten to recognize and celebrate what Jesus and the church's skin are doing outside our church's buildings. What does Immanuel Lutheran do for the community? Well, I'm sure a long list. I bet it is longer than you realized before reading this. Wherever we are serving others, even with the most mundane task, Immanuel is serving. Sending a card? Cooking a meal? Sharing a story? Pulling a weed? Taking a temperature? Wherever you are: your home, your car, your office, this is an extension of Immanuel any time you are there. You make it Immanuel at 1234 2nd Ave, or 789 Charles St., Apt#6, or Immanuel at Cromwell State Park.

Now, I don't just mean Immanuel Lutheran, I mean IMMANUEL, God With Us, Jesus. We are his body with skin on that he left on earth. The Church is the power of the flesh and blood of Jesus in the world. When people see Jesus at work today, they still see Immanuel with skin on.

"TIL ALL HAVE HEARD" MISSION FUNDING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Immanuel called 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 the Voters Assembly last October voted to proceed with a new and exciting 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.

The "Til All Have Heard" emphasis has now been delayed twice and cannot take place in 2020 due to the continuing threat of Covid-19. As a result, we are now planning to begin the "Til All Have Heard" mission funding campaign on January 10, 2021 and hold Commitment Sunday on February 14, 2021. This new three-year campaign is now set to provide funding for the Missionary for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Please continue to pray for this new ministry and for Pastor Witt and his family as he leads these missionary efforts. It is important to keep our focus and plans for the support of this ministry that we pray will be a significant

piece of our future. For the remainder of 2020, gifts to the Missionary Ministry can be made using the special envelopes provide in the envelope boxes. To make regular electronic gifts to the Mission Fund, please contact the church office and we will provide the necessary information to get this set up. Through June 30, gifts to missionary efforts so far in 2020 totaled \$11,266. Thank you for your support. We look forward to the time that we can gather and kick off the special Mission Funding Campaign so that many others will be reached for Christ.

PLANNING FOR YOUR WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR FALL OF 2020

September 13th is Sunday School Rally Sunday
 October will be our Stewardship Emphasis Month
 October 18th will be Consecration Sunday
 October 25th is Reformation Sunday
 November 1st is All Saints Sunday. A special afternoon service will be held in our cemetery at 2pm
 November 22nd is the Last Sunday of the Church Year
 November 25th is our Thanksgiving Eve Service. Service is 7:00pm. There will be no Thanksgiving Day Service
 November 29th is the First Sunday in Advent
 December 2nd, 9th, and 16th are our Wednesday Advent Services held at 12:10pm and 7pm. These services will all be in the sanctuary for proper social distancing.
 December 13th is Choir Christmas Sunday
 December 20th is the Sunday School Program
 December 24th at 4pm is our Early Christmas Eve Service and 9pm is our late Service. Both services will be the same.

COMPASSION CENTER NEWS

Immanuel’s Compassion Center is closed.

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 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

September Birthdays:

- 1 Sarah Lietzau
- 2 Elizabeth Flaherty
Jeannine Nash
- 8 Ryan Heemann
- 9 Thelma Lauterbach
- 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.
- 30 Kathleen Lietzau Breen
Jaime Clark-Sands

September Anniversaries:

- 11 Gabriel & Moni Tenabe
- 20 Carl & Delores Harvey

CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE				
	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Liturgist	Communion Assistant
September 6	Mary Ruble/ Rita Alcarese			
September 13				
September 20	Elaine Schwab/ Phyllis Rebstock			
September 27				

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Eritrean wedding
6 <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10 am Worship & Holy Communion & Sunday School 6 pm Bible Study	7 Agape Group (Ray Spitznas)	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Rally Day</i> 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship & Holy Communion	14 Agape Group (Ray Spitznas)	15 6 pm Finance Committee Meeting	16 12pm James Bible Class on Facebook Live 7 pm Church Council	17	18	19
20 <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship & Holy Communion	21 IMMANUEL HERALD ARTICLES DUE Agape Group (Ray Spitznas)	22	23 12pm James Bible Class on Facebook Live	24	25	26
27 <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship & Holy Communion	28 Agape Group (Ray Spitznas)	29	30 12pm James Bible Class on Facebook Live			