

# IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Connecting people with God and other people to make a difference!*



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Ministers: *Members and Friends of the Congregation*

Pastor: *The Rev. Norbert F. Hahn, Ph.D.*

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## CHRISTMAS 2019 / JANUARY 2020

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### From Pastor Hahn:

My dear church family,

**The first two weeks** of December are always difficult for me emotionally. My mother, my sister, and my favorite aunt all have their birthdays in that span of time. But all three of them are celebrating their birthdays in heaven. When my calendar reminds me of their birthdays, I get sad because they are no longer with me. (Sometimes I even get a little “bah-humbug” or grumpy. If you have been effected by my attitude, please accept my apologies.)

**Actually**, there is such a thing as “seasonally affective disorder” which usually strikes people during the winter months. It can manifest itself, among other symptoms, with depressive moods, too much sleeping, and overeating.

It seems odd that during what is officially hailed as the “season of joy” there are people who feel less than joyous. But it is a reality. And not a rarity.

Fortunately, these people are not alone. A careful and attentive look at the cast of Bible characters who appear during Advent and Christmas tells us that they faced a lot of challenges, some of them really tough and highly unusual.

What made the difference for the Advent and Christmas characters in the Bible can also make the difference for all who are struggling in some way during this season. It is the Good News as recorded by Luke and John:

*“Do not be afraid.... I am bringing you good news of great joy ... to you is born this day ... a savior.”*  
(Luke 2:10-11)

*The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:9, 14-15)*



Lyn and I would like to extend our Christmas blessings and New Year’s greetings to you. You are in our prayers. Please keep us in yours.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Hahn*



***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
– Romans 15:13***

Beloved,

“It’s about Jesus!”

That was the theme for the ELCA’s exciting Congregational Vitality gathering this year. And it could well be the theme for our celebration of Advent and Christmas 2019. (And perhaps every week of the year, as well.)

In this season we live in the great mystery of already and not yet. We know and trust in the birth of Jesus many centuries ago in Bethlehem. Yet we still symbolically re-live Mary’s surprise at the angel’s news, Joseph’s shock, an arduous journey, the angel’s praise, the flight to Egypt.

At the center, “it’s about Jesus.” Christmas brings the amazingly wonderful news that the creator of the universe stooped and “became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.” (John 1:14, The Message) It’s the beginning of the last chapter of the salvation story. God stood with us in Bethlehem’s manger, and God still stands with us today as Christ is reborn in our hearts this season.

I pray that re-living the story this year brings you peace and hope as we focus on Jesus.

Love always and always love in Christ,

*Patricia A. Davenport*

The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport  
Bishop



**Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 2019 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24

- 2:00 PM Christmas for Young and Old Candlelight Service
- 6:00 PM Candlelight Service (German)
- 8:00 PM Candlelight Service (English)

### Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25

- 10:30 AM Bilingual Christmas Service with Holy Communion

### First Sunday of Christmas – Sunday, December 29

- 10:30 AM Bilingual Service of Lessons and Carols

### Epiphany of Our Lord – Sunday, January 5, 2020

- 9:30 AM English Service with Holy Communion
- 10:30 AM Fellowship
- 11:00 AM German Service with Holy Communion



## NEW MEMBERS – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019



(left to right):  
*Dave, Dona, Debra and Erwin.*

Dave and Dona usually worship at the Sunday evening service; Debra worships at the English morning service (unless she is working, then she worships at the evening service); Erwin worships at the German service.

Dave said becoming a member of Immanuel was his best birthday present in a long time. (December 15 was/is his birthday.)

This year give a gift that makes three parties happy:

- (1) You, because you gave a very special gift with a great meaning;
- (2) the person for whom you bought it because he or she appreciates your thoughtfulness, and
- (3) the person or family in need who actually receives it.

Give an **ELCA Good Gift** that makes a difference. Order forms available on the information table. Orders can be placed until January 6, 2020.







# IMMANUEL GERMAN SCHOOL

On Saturday, November 9, our students celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In gatherings reflecting age- and interest-appropriate groupings, students learned about the historical causes leading to the building of the Wall, the impact it had on German citizens and the world, as well as the events that led to its opening on November 9, 1989.



One of the morning's highlights was a quick trip to Berlin, where students could have their picture taken standing in front of a section of the wall bearing the graffito "Immanuel German School." Another highlight was certainly the delicious Mauerkuchen.

Of course, we could not let the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this momentous occasion displace our annual St. Martin's Day parade and celebration. Here our younger students (below) paraded with the lanterns that they had constructed and sang, "Laterne, Laterne. . . ."



While the school was busily celebrating the Fall of the Wall and St. Martin's Day, School Principal, Dr. Hausman was taking part in the annual meeting of the German Language School Conference and a special meeting for German School principals hosted by the Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen held at the German Consulate General in New York City.



On Saturday, November 23, the school held its annual Bücher- und Weihnachtsmarkt featuring free hot chocolate and coffee in addition to traditional German baked goods, Advent calendars, and hundreds of books in the German language. We thank everyone who visited and participated in the sale.

Our annual Weihnachtsfeier, or Christmas Celebration, was held on Saturday, December 14, where our students had the opportunity to perform and show off what they have learned.

# Annual Global Taste of Christmas From Around the World Saturday, December 7, 2019



# WEICHNACHTSFEIER German Christmas Party Sunday, December 8, 2019





# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b> Office closed	<b>3</b> Office closed	<b>4</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
<b>5</b> <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 9:30 AM English Service with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service with Holy Communion  6:30PM Evening Service 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting  7:00 PM Christian Event Team	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Lower Bucks Conference Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Member Care Team	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
<b>12</b> <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> 9:30 AM English Service 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service  6:30 PM Evening Service 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>13</b> 10:0 AM Worship Committee meeting	<b>14</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	<b>15</b> 12:00 Noon Frauenverein  7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Deans Meeting	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Newsletter Mailing  4:00 PM Audit  7:00 PM Council	<b>18</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS  <b>1:00 PM Movie and Munchies (see page 6)</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Second Sunday After Epiphany</b> 9:30 AM English Service with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service with Holy Communion  6:30 PM Evening Service with Holy Communion 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe	<b>20</b> <b>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</b>	<b>21</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Immanuel German School at LMHS
<b>26</b> <b>Third Sunday After Epiphany</b> 9:30 AM English Service 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM German Service  6:30 PM Evening Service 7:10 PM What Lutherans REALLY Believe	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  7:00 PM Bible Study  7:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	