



February 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

"Pastor, our church is boring, and I don't get anything out of the service." In my almost six years as your pastor, I have heard this statement, or something like it, a hand full of times. Each time the sentiment is shared, I must say that I am saddened just a little bit as I do not agree for many different reasons.

But here's a question to consider: as Christians, and as Lutherans, can this sentiment really be true, especially if the Word is preached in purity and truth and the service includes the Most Holy Sacrament? Let's find out together.

Our services here at Immanuel are traditional. It was this way before I became your pastor and I believe it is right to be so. Here's why. In our liturgical tradition, people will hear the Word of God. That Word is always efficacious, or effective-even if it is read poorly (though I cannot think of one time when it has been read poorly). For it is God's Word and His Word, regardless of delivery, never returns void. Our music is traditional as well. This is a beautiful thing, for the hymns, bell and choir pieces, are also confessions of Scripture and grounded in our Lord + Jesus Christ, and they convey the Gospel-even if pastor sings them out of tune. Preaching, likewise, so long as it is the proclamation of God's Word and not yammering on about non-scriptural things, is efficacious-even if my voice is grating, too loud or soft, or if it seems that I am reading more from the manuscript than looking at you. (I am working on that, I promise and if you want to know more, please ask).

My point is that as Christians, it is very hard, if not impossible, to worship with us and say that we receive nothing out of the service because in our liturgy you are receiving immeasurably more than you might imagine. As a matter of fact, I would be so bold as to say that in our liturgy, you are getting everything out of the service, for in it you receive grace, forgiveness, life, and salvation. You are receiving God's gifts to you of, "the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."

As your pastor I understand that this does not excuse poor liturgical practice. Let me explain. As your pastor, I should strive (and I do) for excellence and to constantly improve my preaching. This means that I work constantly and consistently on my weaknesses, and I know there are some. If my preaching is not up to par, then I need to work on it. If I am not projecting my voice, or if I am projecting it too much, or if I do not annunciate my words, then I need to fix it. If my exegesis is weak. If I forget some



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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Cell Phone.....253-241-1435
Email pastordavid.immanuel@gmail.com

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

The office is normally open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Please remember that the administrative assistant may be
away from the office running errands during this time.

Office Phone410-673-7107
Office Fax Number410-673-1426
Office Emailimmanuellutheranpreston@verizon.net

CHURCH OFFICERS — 2023

President..... Richard Wheatley
Secretary..... Lynn Short
Financial Secretary Dee Lambert
Treasurer..... Janice Isenberg
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Trustee Chair Dale Kenton
Stewardship Chair..... Lynn Faulstick
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Greek and Hebrew, and the knowledge that is God's Word, then I need to roll up my sleeves and get busy. And if I lead worship with less rigor and energy than I should, then I need to step it up. Why? Because in worship, singing, preaching, and the Sacrament, you are before the throne of God. It is He who is our Bridegroom, our Head, and in worship, heaven and earth come together. Better still, we aren't alone when we worship. Though our numbers may not be as pleasing as we'd like, the truth is that when we worship we are surrounded by all of heaven; angels, archangels, all the saints gone before, to include those whom we love and remember, which in reality means that our attendance on Sunday mornings is bursting at the seams.

Here's a truth that may be hard to hear: when someone says, "Our church is boring and I get nothing out of the service", chances are what they mean is that they aren't being entertained. Of course, that should not surprise us. This lust for constant dopamine hits come from the world, as we are surrounded by 24-7 high octane on demand visual and audio stimulation. To the world, a traditional service like ours with its preaching, hymns, and Holy Communion, just doesn't hit the mark.

Which leads to another question that perhaps you are thinking: Pastor, what about contemporary worship services? When I came to Immanuel we had a contemporary service on Saturdays and it was done very well. Most of the service was like what we did on Sundays but with a few exceptions. The music was different. It was more modern, or contemporary, but every song chosen was solid in it's proclamation of the Gospel and doctrine. The singing was great, enthusiastic even. There was a screen, a projector, it was in the fellowship hall and it had a more laid back feel in that I didn't wear vestments, we didn't use the hymnal (again, because the service was projected onto the screen), and most the time the sermons were different than that on Sundays. I say all that to say this, Immanuel did the contemporary service right. It was still reverent and not a show. Most of all, it was all about Christ and Him crucified.

The whole "show" thing is why contemporary services get such a bad rap. Most of the time it's a result of the church growth/missional crowd trying to alleviate the "boredom" of the traditional

liturgy. And the mindset is not new. In Luther's day, the radical reformers got rid of the liturgy, took away the traditional hymns, stopped giving exegetical sermons, and downplayed Communion.

Today, the thought is (and it has been for decades) that if the church wants to reach the lost, the seekers, the nones, the strayed, the youth and young families, and the prodigals, then we need to ditch the duds and be more modern, more inclusive, more bright lights, rock music, and TED-talks. Let's replace the liturgy with spontaneity. Have pastor dress in skinny jeans, a t shirt, and spike his hair (please, don't do this...its not a good look on me). Ask him to preach sermons that leave us feeling good, inspired, and please, please, stop all the talk about sin. It drives people away and is unfriendly. Just don't. Period. Do this and they will come (as the adage suggest). Or to put it differently, let's make church like the world and people will bust down our doors.

But here's the thing, they may come but if they do, it's only for a while. They come until they are bored with it, until the entertainment loses it's appeal, and the messages are no longer relevant, they no longer get that warm and fuzzy feeling, and then they move on. This formula does not work. It's never worked. And it wont work in the future. As a matter of fact, instead of the church growing, the numbers continue to plummet.

The solution? Well, years ago I read a study conducted by Barna Group, a company who specializes in church demographics, and in the report, something interesting was discovered: people were leaving worldly churches and in their search for authenticity, were coming back to churches where Christ crucified is preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered. Why? Because in the churches where it is about Christ crucified, worship unites all voices across the range of age demographics and subcultures in harmonious unity that transcends the world because those churches realize it's not their work, but God's work, that saves, heals, gives life, love, and forgiveness.

Friends, our worship is not boring and there is certainly much to be received out of it. Our church fathers knew this as they expressed their wisdom over and against radical reformers of their own day and age, when they committed themselves to being the true Holy Christian and Apostolic church; even if

if it cost them their lives (and it did for some of them).

It is a commitment that every Lutheran pastor makes (by virtue of his ordination vows) and every Lutheran congregation (by virtue of their commitment to the Book of Concord) share in Article 24 of the Augsburg Confession and the Apology.

"In our churches Mass is celebrated every Sunday and on other festivals when the sacrament is offered to those who wish for it after they have been examined and absolved. We keep traditional liturgical forms, such as the order of the lessons, prayers, vestments, etc." (AP :1).

As your pastor, I am honored and humbled to serve such a wonderful church that loves the Lord and her neighbors, that gathers together joyfully around the throne of God and sings His praises every Lord's day, and that serves and cares for their community through Christ in thought, word, and deed. For I know, and so do you, that at Immanuel, God is with us in all that we believe, teach, and confess and He and His Gospel is lived out in our worship and everyday life. For we believe, teach, and confess Christ crucified in preaching, teaching, and the Sacraments.

I mean it when I say Immanuel is family, and you only have to come and attend our Sunday services to see, hear, and taste it in action. I'm proud of our church, how she worships, and her witness to the world. I know you are too. May it always be so. Amen.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Pastor David



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for your faithful partnership in the Gospel! With all of our congregations, schools, and service organizations, you are making a difference for the sake of Christ and His love for all people. Each mission station is unique, serving in a special context and reaching out to various groups of people, all having an eternal impact on the lives of those they encounter. Thank you for who you are and what you do!

The principles of stewardship are familiar to all of us. We preach them in our churches. We teach them in our Bible Studies. And we live them out in our own faith lives. We set aside a portion of what is already the Lord's as an act of worship. Rejoicing in the gifts He so freely offers us, we offer our gifts to His glory and praise.

Your Mission Partnership gifts to the District continue that act of worship and enable the Gospel to be proclaimed over seven states, the District of Columbia, to 33 million people. Together we connect people with Jesus, lives are transformed, and God's Kingdom grows.

Please take a few moments to read through the Mission Partnership update. As you do, rejoice in all the ways God is giving us to encounter the people who live in the Southeastern District. Your mission partnership is making a difference.

Thank you for your prayers, offerings, and witness. May the Lord do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine for the sake of His grace and mercy for His people.

President Bill Harmon

THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH JESUS

Lives are Transformed

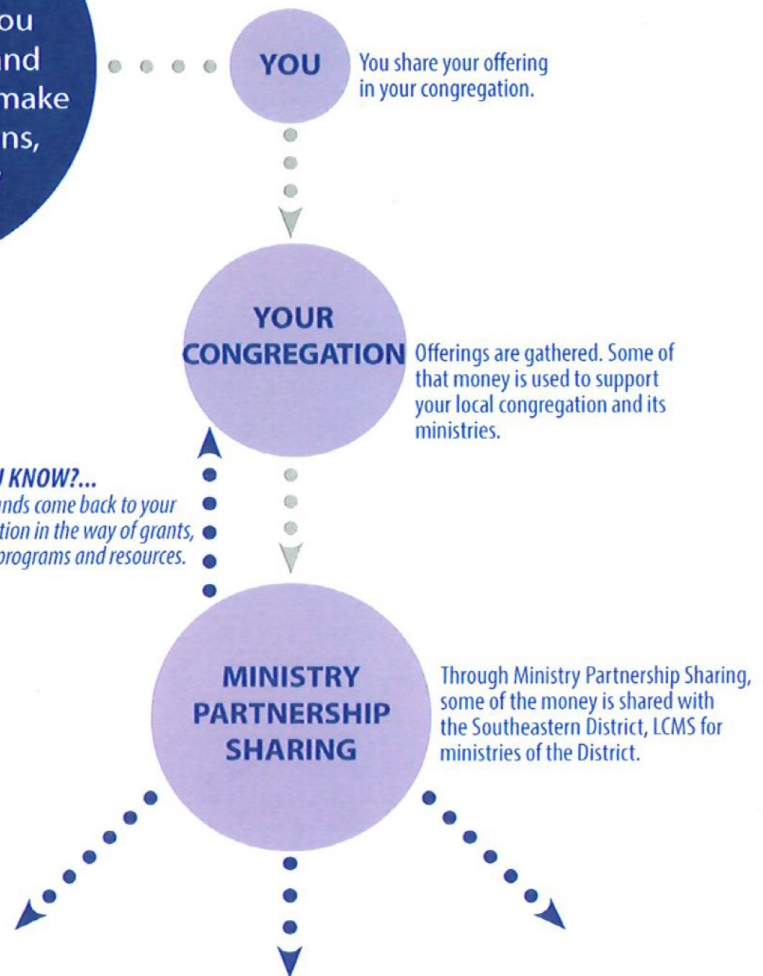
God's Kingdom Grows



working through you
and your brothers and
sisters in Christ, who make
up our congregations,
schools and new
missions.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT, LCMS
6315 Grovedale Drive • Alexandria, VA 22310
1.800.637.5723 • www.se.lcms.org

your congregation is engaged in gospel-based ministries in the neighborhood and throughout the world!



United Concerned Christians, Inc.

Samaritan House

12 N. Fifth Street

P.O. Box 52

Denton, Maryland 21629

(410)-479-1251

January 7, 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 39

Preston, Maryland 21655

Dear Congregation:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00 to the Samaritan House operated by the United Concerned Christians of Caroline County, Inc. Your monetary gift was received December 2022. *Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; (Psalm 41:1)*

Please keep this letter as a receipt for your gift. United Concerned Christians of Caroline County Inc. is designated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a tax-exempt as defined in section 501 (C3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and, as such, contributions to the organization are tax-deductible. Upon request, we will provide you with a copy of our IRS determination letter for your records. This letter confirms that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this charitable contribution.

Thank you again for your generous donation to our cause.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Papineau

Corresponding Secretary





IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

VIOLA SCHMICK (1926-2023)

Viola "Vi" Palamaras Schmick, formerly of Denton, MD, died peacefully on Monday, January 16, 2023, at the Chestertown Nursing Home. She was 96 years old.

Born in Sturgeon, PA on March 19, 1926, Mrs. Schmick was the daughter of the late William and Elizabeth Dams Schumacher.

"Vi" and her first husband Nickco Palamaras married and lived in Pennsylvania where she played an important part during WWII as a "Rosie the Riveter". One of her duties included welding ships. Then in 1954, Mrs. Schmick and her first husband moved to Cambridge, MD. She was employed at the Cambridge Eastern Shore Hospital Center as an LPN. After the loss of her husband Nickco in 1972, Vi continued her work in the nursing field.

Vi met Lawrence Schmick and they married in 1980. She and Lawrence moved to the Denton area in 1986. At age 54, Vi learned to play golf and had a true talent for the sport. She loved spending time with family and friends telling jokes and reminiscing. She was known to have quite the sense of humor, occasionally telling a dirty joke or two.

Mrs. Schmick is survived by her husband, Lawrence Schmick; daughter, AmyBeth Laning (David); grandson Mark J. Palamaras Jr. (Kara) and great-grandson Nickco; step-grandchildren: David (Ann), Daniel (Alix), Donald (Patricia), and Dennis (Jessica) Laning; stepdaughters: Debbie Chambers (Jeff) and her children, Natalie and Matthew; Laura Corey (Doug) and her daughter Ashley; daughter-in-law Sharon Palamaras, her daughter LeeAnne (John) and their children; 6 great-grandchildren; and stepson, Paul Schmick and his children: Anthony and Michael.

Viola was predeceased by her first husband Nickco Palamaras in 1972 and her son Mark J. Palamaras Sr. in 2014; and siblings: Marcella, Elizabeth, Laverne, William and Carl.

Funeral services were held at 12 Noon on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at the Moore Funeral Home, P.A. located at 12 S. Second Street in Denton, MD. Visitation was an hour prior to the service at 11AM. Interment is private.

If friends wish to send donations, the family suggests Talbot Hospice Foundation 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

For further information or to offer online condolences please visit moorefuneralhomepa.com.



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Kenny Wheatley	2/3
Leslie Jefferson	2/3
Sharron Jamarik	2/4
Keith Lyons	2/4
Paul Nichols	2/5
Caron Janko	2/7
John Johansen	2/8
Irene Wheatley	2/8
April Frase	2/9
Ryan Kenton	2/11
Mark Harding	2/12
Cathy Baker	2/13
Mark Gadow	2/14
Laura Frase	2/15
Ronald Andrew Jr.	2/17
Jacob Parmer	2/17
Ann Bradley	2/17
Helen Schmidt	2/21
Robert Phillips III	2/22
Jason Frase	2/23
David Gadow	2/24
Jason Frase	2/26
Kimberly Jantz	2/25
Michael Limpert	2/26
Diana Patchett	2/26
James Fuchs	2/27
John Hochmuth	2/27
Kara Erskine	2/28
Jennifer Phillips	2/28



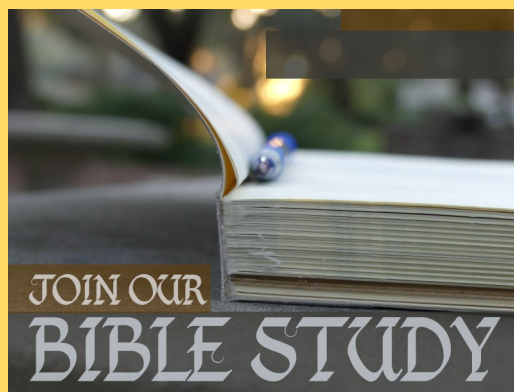
FEBRUARY

ANNIVERSARIES

William & Carole Greenage	2/18
Timothy & Naomi DeGroat	2/22
Joseph & Barbara Headley	2/27


Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study starting soon!
Thursday February 2
9:30 am in fellowship hall.
God's Relentless Love
A study of Hosea
(author Sharla Fritz)
Contact Lynn (703-505-6583)
or Rene (410-253-8735)



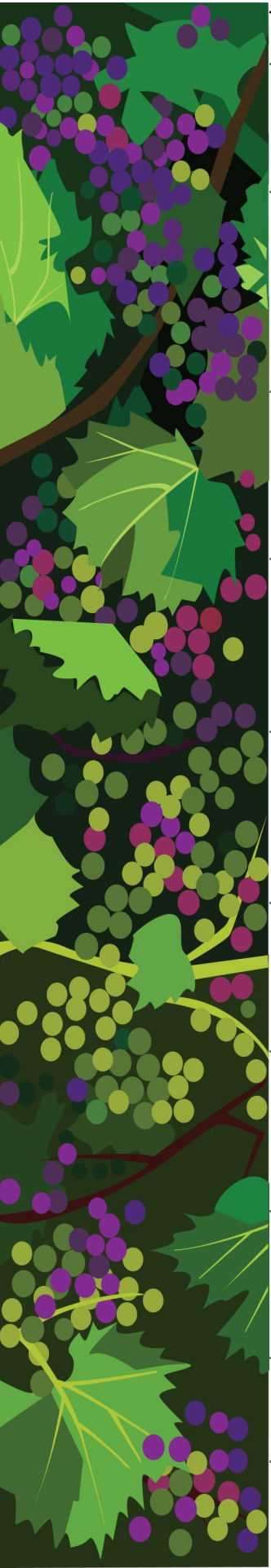
February

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	2 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 9:30 Woman's Bible Study	3	4 8:30 Men's Prayer breakfast
5 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	6 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 6:30 Elders Meeting	7 8:50-11:45 Nursery School	8 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	9 8:50-11:45 Nursery 9:30 Woman's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. WINGS	10	11
12 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	13 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 7:00 pm Church Council	14 8:50-11:45 Nursery School Valentine's Day	15 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 6:30 pm Bell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	16 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 9:30 Woman's Bible Study	17	18
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Divine Service with Holy Communion Spaghetti Fund Raiser 12-2 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	20 NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED Office Closed 6:30 Nursery School Board Meeting	21 8:50-11:45 Nursery School	22 Ash Wednesday 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 7am-8am Ashes 12:00 Noon Worship service 7Pm Worship service w/ communion	23 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 9:30 Woman's Bible Study	24	25
26 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 p.m. AA Mtg	27 8:50-11:45 Nursery School 6:30 pm Board of Education Mg	28				

THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL FEBRUARY 2023

Date	Ushers	Assisting Elder	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Sound System	Camera Operator	Kids Worship	Greet-er	Head Tellers
Feb. 5	Dicky Wheatley Rex Rosebrock	Hugh Smith	Hugh Smith	Kalei Durando	David Schmidt	Janice Isenberg	Rene Langwost		Janice Isenberg Shelly Kapitan John Crampton
Feb 12	Dicky Wheatley Rex Rosebrock		Ruth Thomas		David Schmidt	Zack Kirwan	Rene Langwost		Karen Lyons Jennifer Phillips
Feb. 19	Dicky Wheatley Rex Rosebrock	Mark Frase	John Crampton	Lukas Maloney	Rex Rosebrock	John Crampton	Rene Langwost		Dee Lambert Glen Plutschak Linda Jefferson
Feb.26	Dicky Wheatley Rex Rosebrock		Desiree Casey Motley		Jim Harris	Ruth Thomas	Rene Langwost		David & Kathy Schmidt Julie Schmidt





SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

Sunday, February 19th

**To benefit the Immanuel Lutheran
Church Nursery School**

**Pick up in the Fellowship Hall
between 12-2pm**

**\$10 per ticket
Includes salad, drink and dessert
(brownie or cookie)**

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
242 Main Street
Preston*

Call 410-924-3803 for more information.

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Immanuel's 125th Anniversary

Commemoration

We are honored and humbled to be awarded the Governor's Citation from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan on the occasion of Immanuel's 125th Anniversary in 2022. The citation recognizes Immanuel's integrity and service to the community for 125 years. It is currently displayed in the glass front case in the Narthex until a permanent hanging spot is determined. Many thanks to Joe Bartenfelder for facilitating this honor for the congregation of Immanuel.

Soli Deo Gloria

Members of the 125th anniversary



GRATEFUL
Thankful
& BLESSED

