



# The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church  
Prince William County

December 28, 2025

Pastor's Corner  
**"Christmas Continues"**

Merry Christmas!

Among the many things I appreciate about following Jesus in the Anglican Way is that Christmas lasts for Twelve Days rather than one. From December 25 to January 5 we remain in the season of celebrating how our Hope-Full Waiting finds its fulfillment in the coming of Jesus.

Both services this upcoming Sunday will continue celebrating the first coming of Jesus. **At the 8am service, our usual Contemplative Eucharist service will have as its focus the wonderful opening of the Gospel of John:** *"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, Like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish"* (John 1:14, *The Message*).

**At 10:30am we'll offer our Lessons & Carols service.** From the perspective of church history, this is a relatively recent tradition, beginning in the early 1900's. Even so, it is *"is a beloved tradition rooted in healing, because it was forged in the fires of grief and suffering."* Eric Milner-White, the Dean of King's College, created it as a special Christmas Eve service the wake of World War I. Looking for a way to *"tend to the emotional and spiritual wounds the soldiers brought home,"* he shaped a service *"with the suffering*

*and trauma of the last four years in mind, a service marked by beauty, simplicity, and truth" ([Erin Jones](#)).*

Our current world, of course, has its own emotional and spiritual wounds, so this service not only continues our celebration, it also offers the healing we all need. We will intersperse the readings and songs with reflections written by a friend of mine, and art created Anneke Kaai.

Come and continue celebrating together the birth of Jesus—our Older Brother, our Rescuing King, our God.

Your Pastor in Christ,

Travis +

## VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The Vestry Nominating Committee, consisting of:

Kathy Oravetz, Chair – (koravetzdpt@gmail.com)  
Janice Flynn – (grammy41966@icloud.com)  
Becky Ragon – (beckyragon25@gmail.com)  
Jean Albert – (jwalbertpk@gmail.com)

announces that the next Vestry election will be on January 25, 2026, at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Vestry Nominations are now open, and applications are being accepted through January 5, 2025. An application can be found [here](#) or by using this link:  
<https://www.immanuelanglicanchurch.org/vestry>

There are three vacancies for three-year terms each and one vacancy for one-term. We are asking that:

1. those interested carefully and prayerfully consider indicating your interest to one of the Nominating Committee members; and,
2. if anyone eligible to vote in the election knows of someone they believe would be a strong candidate, please contact one of the Nominating Committee with his/her name so we can follow up.

According to the Bylaws of Immanuel Anglican Church, Vestry members must be at least eighteen years of age, have been confirmed or received by a Bishop of the ACNA and GAFCON, and who do not have immediate familial relationships, such as spousal, sibling, or parental (including in-law) relationships, with current staff or with continuing Vestry members. In addition, a candidate shall be:

- a. A mature Christian;
- b. One who maintains an active life of prayer and study of Scripture;
- c. One whose life and relationships are in order;
- d. One who is known and respected among the Congregation;
- e. One who has been or is currently active in ministry;
- f. One who is known as a cheerful giver of time, talent, and treasure;
- g. One who understands, has counted the cost of, and is committed to fulfilling the responsibilities and duties of a Vestry member; and,
- h. One who affirms the Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese as set forth in Article I of the Diocesan Constitution and the Standards (see Appendix I).
- i. One who affirms and abides by The Standards of Morality and Ethics as set forth in Title II, Canon 5 of the Diocesan Canons (see Appendix II).

Additional notifications and important information will be communicated in future.

Click [here](#) to view the following Appendices

Appendix I: The Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Appendix II: The Standards of Morality and ethics

## Worship

Please join us, each Sunday at 8:00am or 10:30am at 7075 Hoadly Road, Manassas, VA. You may also join us at 10:30am via [livestream](#).

Morning Prayer is offered via [Zoom](#) every Thursday at 8am.  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85934655171>  
Meeting ID: 859 3465 5171

Morning Prayer is offered at Immanuel Tuesday - Friday, in the Nave from 8:30am - 9:30am.

Midday prayer is offered Tuesday – Friday in the Nave at noon.  
Visit [iachurch.org/worship](http://iachurch.org/worship) for more details.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 25-Jan 3	Office Closed	
Jan 4	Blessing the Epiphany Chalk	
Jan 5	Vestry Nominations Close	
Jan 6	Epiphany-no service, chalk your doors	
Jan 9 and 10	Hilda Barg Meals	
Jan 25	Annual Meeting	12:30-2:00 Nave

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BP4 KIDS - Fulfilling God's mission for Immanuel:** Thank you Immanuel family, for offering **Refuge, Reconciliation, and Renewal**, providing weekend food for the underserved children of our area. Bless you for offering your prayers for all to experience life with God the Father in Jesus Christ. Would you like to help with food, monetary donations, and/pr packing? Please contact Dean and Pat Tony -- [patbtony@gmail.com](mailto:patbtony@gmail.com). To be continued in 2026, with expectation of what our faithful Lord will accomplish in the lives of children!

**The Food Cupboard Ministry:** For the month of December, We are collecting diapers sizes 4 – 7, Pull-Ups and baby wipes. The food cupboard is on the left as you enter the storage room located between classrooms 1 & 2.

**Meals for Hilda Barg:** Immanuel Anglican Church will be providing meals to the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center on January 9th & 10th. Please sign up to prepare and deliver one or more of the menu items by clicking [here](#) or by visiting our website. Your generosity helps shine the light of Jesus for those in need.

**Chalking the Doors Epiphany Tradition:** January 6 is the day we celebrate Epiphany, the day the wise men arrived with gifts for Jesus. A centuries-old tradition of Epiphany practiced all over the world is chalking the doors. It is a time of a family asking God's blessing on their home and on those live in it or visit. It is also an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in your home and your daily routines.

Directions: The traditional way to chalk your door is to write 20 + C + M + B + 26 above the entrance to your home using chalk. The letters C, M, B have two meanings: They are the initials of the traditional names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus*

*mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2026 is the year.

Prayer: Peace be to this house and all who live here. O God, please bless this house and all who live here. May all who come to our home this year find Jesus living among us. Holy Spirit, fill us with your love so that our concern for others may reflect your love. Amen

Chalk will be available at both services on January 4.

## COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

**Immanuel Kids:** Many families hit the road during the Christmas season, whether it's to visit loved ones or take a much-needed break. It's a time-honored tradition—one that might even be traced back to the first Christmas when a bright star dropped a pin on a special location to guide people to the birthplace of the savior. In this 3-week series, kids will learn that God gives people to guide us, God gives hope to guide us, and God gives a Savior to guide us. There will be no Children's Church or Nursery on Sunday, December 28.

**Youth Group:** Youth Group is for youth in 6th-12th grade. Youth Group will resume January 4 after the 10:30 service. Save the Date for Second Sunday at 6 on January 11 at 6pm! High Schoolers interested in Feb 13-16 Breakaway Retreat contact [mbyers@iachurch.org](mailto:mbyers@iachurch.org).

**Sunday Night Men's Bible Study:** The men will not meet the next two Sundays but will reconvene January 11, 2026, to continue their study of Genesis. They meet from 7-8:30 pm in classroom 4. If you have any questions, see or email Bob Mann ([mannrm@comcast.net](mailto:mannrm@comcast.net)) or Mike Harpster ([MikeHarpster@comcast.net](mailto:MikeHarpster@comcast.net)).

**Men's Dinner:** All Immanuel men and their guests are invited to join us for some fellowship and conversation at our weekly Monday Men's Dinner. Due to the holidays, the next dinner will be on January 5, 2026 at Armetta's located at 5224 Staple Mill Plaza, Dale City. New attendees are always welcome so come and join us and bring someone with you.

**Women's Monday Night Bible Study:** Women's Monday Night Bible Study: Please contact Kathy Oravetz at 571-334-8786 or [koravetzdpt@gmail.com](mailto:koravetzdpt@gmail.com) for more information.

We will be on hiatus through the Christmas season. Newcomers, old-timers, and everyone in-between are welcome to come, taste



and see what God has for us in this group. January 8, 6 p.m. the group will meet for dinner and fellowship at Giorgio's Family Restaurant 4394 Kevin Walker Dr., Montclair, VA 22025.

January 12, 7 p.m. we will resume Monday night studies with a video series "Truth Rising", a Colson Fellows program. It will be facilitated by Lydia's daughter, Kristina. From the website: [The Study - Truth Rising](#)

**"What You'll Gain:**

- *A deeper understanding of today's civilizational moment—and why it matters.*
- *A biblical framework to live in the world as a Christian.*
- *A clear sense of identity in Christ, not the culture around us.*
- *The confidence to live out your calling with purpose and impact."*

**Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study:** Join this lovely, caring group at 10:00 am in Classroom #1 beginning January 6th as we dive into Isaiah using the Melissa Spoelstra book and video: "Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More". We'll unpack Isaiah's words to reveal that you can trust God more than your own human effort or the counterfeits the world suggests. You won't be striving harder but instead trusting more deeply in the Faithful One who is so worthy of our utter dependence. In Him you'll find the comfort and peace you need to sustain you. Workbooks will be around \$22.00. Contact Barbara Finney at [blynn56@verizon.net](mailto:blynn56@verizon.net) or 703-405-2651.

**Tuesday Ladies Dinner:** The next dinner will be at The Montclair Family Restaurant located at 17001 Dumfries Rd, Dumfries on January 20, at 5:00 pm. Please RSVP to [Teharpster@comcast.net](mailto:Teharpster@comcast.net), so reservations can be made.

### **Saturday Morning Men's Discussion:**

1/10/2025 Read Chapter Six in the commentary, "Jesus Loses His Crowd", pages 93-105, and the questions on pages 106 and 107. In your bible, read John 6.

Books are available for \$10 from Alan Clark at (703)627-4725 or [alan.clark1@verizon.net](mailto:alan.clark1@verizon.net). Coffee and donuts are provided. Join us and bring a friend or join us via [ZOOM](#). Meeting ID:827 91399156.

**Women's Book Club:** The book club will not meet in December. The next book club meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13th at 7pm at Penny Barriteau's home located at 3217 Culbreth Ct. Woodbridge, VA. The book we are reading is The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson. You can call Cathleen Giannini at 703-851-0908 or [cragchat@gmail.com](mailto:cragchat@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Men's Breakfast:** The men will meet January 17, for the monthly breakfast at 8:00am. Come join in for a hot breakfast and fellowship.

## County Community Activities

Place your notice here!

Not receiving The Weekly? You can sign up on the IAC website by going to [here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page and complete the subscribe form. If you need help, contact the Parish Administrator at [office@iachurch.org](mailto:office@iachurch.org).

### Lost and Found

The found items are on the Usher's Table.

### Building Usage

If you or your group would like to use a room at the church, please contact the office at [office@iachurch.org](mailto:office@iachurch.org) or [tharpster@iachurch.org](mailto:tharpster@iachurch.org) to schedule the date, time and room. Unscheduled meetings cannot always be accommodated.

## NOTES