



The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church
Prince William County

December 14, 2025

Pastor's Corner
"Advent: Called to Listen"

As we move into Advent we are called to listen, something we seldom take time to do in this frenetic world of over-activity. But waiting for birth, waiting for death—these are listening times, when the normal distractions of life have lost their power to take us away from God's call to center in Christ.

...

Listen. Quietly. Humbly. Without arrogance.

...

In the first verse of "Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring," we sing, "Word of God, our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life impassioned," and the marvelous mystery of incarnation shines. "Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh," goes one of my favorite propers, for it is indeed the mystery by which we live, give birth, watch death.

When the Second Person of the Trinity entered the virgin's womb and prepared to be born as a human baby (a particular baby, Jesus of Nazareth), his death was inevitable.

*It is only after we have been enabled to say, "Be it unto me according to your Word," that we can accept the paradoxes of Christianity. **Christ comes to live with us, bringing an incredible promise of God's love,** but never are we promised that there will be no pain, no suffering, no death, but rather that these very griefs are the road to love and eternal life.*

In Advent we prepare for the coming of all Love, that love which will redeem all the brokenness, wrongness, hardnesses of heart which have afflicted us.

--Madeleine L'Engle

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 for more details.

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 17	Advent Oasis III	5-7:30pm Nave
Dec 21	Carol Sing & Tree Lighting	5-9:00pm Outside
Dec 24	Christmas Service	5:00 pm Nave
	Christmas Service	8:00 pm Nave
Dec 25-Jan 3	Office Closed	
Jan 5	Vestry Nominations Close	
Jan 25	Annual Meeting	12:30-2:00 Nave

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 17th - Advent Oasis III: We will start the evening with a potluck dinner beginning at 5:30pm. Together, we'll pack diaper bags for unborn babies and prepare gift bags for expecting moms who have chosen LIFE through the Life First Pregnancy Center. At 7pm we'll join together for Compline, an evening prayer service that marks the completion of our day and time together. [Register here](#) so we know you're coming and so we can have enough food for everyone!

Christmas cards for Yvonne: Please stop by the table in the Narthex and sign a Christmas card for our Missionary partner, Yvonne. If you feel so moved, feel free to bless her with a monetary gift or gift card, both of which she greatly appreciates! Contact Barbara Finney with any questions: blynn56@verizon.net or 703-405-2651.

Carol Sing and Nativity Lighting: Please join Immanuel on December 21, 2025, at 5:00pm for an event filled with the singing of traditional Carols for Advent and Christmas to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Refreshments will be served.

BP4 KIDS - Fulfilling God's mission for Immanuel: *The Mission of Immanuel Anglican is to cultivate a Spirit-filled family that goes into our communities and the world to offer **Refuge, Reconciliation, and Renewal**, inviting everyone to experience life with God the Father in Jesus Christ.* Thank you for supporting Back pack for Kids, part of fulfilling God's mission. With your generous gifts, this outreach ministry of our church provides: **Refuge** - Because we experience God as our refuge and strength, our very present help...(Psalm 46:1) we can rejoice in offering refuge and sustenance in the form of weekend meals for around 40 ML King elementary children whose families are in need. **Reconciliation** - God was in Christ reconciling people to Himself ... He has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation. (II Cor. 5:18-19) We begin with prayer for the families we will reach. Our marvelous BP4 Kids packing team members always include a card of invitation as well as other reminders of God's

great love. One of our participants even reminds her daughter (and us) to be sure to put love in each bag of food prepared. **Renewal** - BP4 Kids is one way God's kingdom is shining the light of Christ into the darkness of poverty and despair in our community. Immanuel not only has the privilege of joining God in renewing our community, but in the process, we are renewed. The Scriptures tell us that new life comes on the way to helping others. Proverbs 11:25 puts it this way - "A generous person will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

The Food Cupboard Ministry: Our total donations to ACTS for the month of November was 511 pounds which brings us to 1.78 tons for the year! 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.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Fire Wood Cutting and Splitting--December 13, 9:30am: Several months ago a company cut down dead trees on the church property. Some of the wood was cut and split but there is still a lot of wood left. The objective is threefold:

1. to beautify the property by removing the fallen trees
2. to get a truck load or two to the Rector's home.
3. to provide firewood to others

Please consider joining us for some fellowship and stewardship to beautify the land God gave us. No signup required. Come and go when you want. There will be a hydraulic log splitter and chain saws. Help is needed to load and unload small split pieces. Bring gloves and dress in layers.

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 December 7 from 12:00-1:30. Our Youth Group Christmas Party is Sunday, December 14 at 6pm! RSVP on Realm or contact Melissa Byers mbyers@iachurch.org.

Sunday Night Men's Bible Study: The men will meet on December 14, 2025, 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) or Mike Harpster (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 on December 15, at 5:00 pm at Red Lobster Restaurant located at 2544 Prince William Parkway, Woodbridge. New attendees are always welcome so come and join us and bring someone with you.

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

We will be on hiatus through the Christmas season. 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 Giorgio's – Family Restaurant

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

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 or 703-405-2651.

Tuesday Ladies Dinner: The next dinner (Potluck this time) will be at the home of Barbara Finney Located at 12629 Stone Lined Circle, Woodbridge, on December 16, at 5:00 pm. Please RSVP by December 10 to Teharpster@comcast.net, so there is enough time

to plan a menu. We get together to enjoy a meal monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. The restaurant rotation will resume in January!

Saturday Morning Men's Discussion: The next meeting will be on 12/13/25. Read Chapter Five, "The Man Who Was Equal With God" in Wiersbe's commentary (PP. 77-89) and be prepared to discuss the questions on pages 90 and 91. Read John 5 in your bible.

12/20/2025 Men's breakfast....No Men's Discussion.

12/27/2025 and 1/3/2025 No Men's Discussion due to the holidays.

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. 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 with any questions.

Men's Breakfast: The men will meet next time for the monthly breakfast at 8:00am Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Immanuel. Come join in for a hot breakfast and fellowship.

County Community Activities

The Manassas Chorale Performance: The Chorale is performing Merry and Bright on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 7:30 pm at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Come enjoy this concert with a cause and help by bringing cereal/oatmeal, pasta/sauce, soup, rice, beans (dry/canned), canned vegetables, and canned meat. Contact Rebecca Verner, Director at info@manassaschorale.org or the Hylton Center Box Office at 703-993-7759 Tues-Sat 10-6pm for more information.

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.

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 or tharpster@iachurch.org to schedule the date, time and room. Unscheduled meetings cannot always be accommodated.