



The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church
Prince William County

September 27, 2026

Pastor's Corner "Cultivating Splagchnizomatic Hearts"

"You pity the plant...should I not pity Nineveh?"
The LORD to Jonah (Jonah 4:10, 11)

On Sunday, I asserted that the story of Jonah is the story of the LORD realigning Jonah's heart with his "splagchnizomatic* heart" — the Father's heart of profound compassion for every person, for all people, for *"all that he has made"* (Psalm 145:9). The challenging part of this story is that "all people" includes Nineveh, Israel's enemies who legitimately deserve destruction due to their evil ways. Will Jonah (and Israel!) be able to move beyond mere obedience to the LORD's command into sharing in the Father's heart?

"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love to the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..." (Exodus 34:6-7a)

And it's not only Jonah's heart that the Father wants to re-align. He wants to cultivate profoundly compassionate hearts in all his people, including in each one of us. How does this cultivation happen? That's what we'll explore this upcoming Sunday. Inspired by how the book of Jonah

concludes with an unanswered question, I ended my sermon with three questions intended to open our hearts and minds to the word of the LORD:

- When have you experienced God's profound compassion in your life?
- What people/causes/situations awaken deep compassion in you?
- Who is your Nineveh?

While I won't ask you to share your answers aloud, I do ask that you come with those answers in your mind, ready to respond to the Spirit's continued work of cultivating profound compassion within your own heart...even for those who don't deserve it.

Your Pastor in Christ,

Travis +

*I made up this word, drawing on *splagchnizomai*, the Greek word for pity used by Matthew when he recounts Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35). *Splagchnizomai* refers to a deep (intestinal!) level of compassion in response to human distress that moves Jesus and God to intervene. Paul uses a related word when he tells the Ephesians to be "tenderhearted (*eusplagchnos*), forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

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 at Immanuel Tuesday - Friday, in the Nave from 8:30am - 9:00am.

Midday prayer is offered Tuesday – Friday in the Nave at noon.

Visit iachurch.org/worship for more details.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept-Nov	Book of Judges Study	9:15am CR1
Sept-Nov	Confirmation Classes	9:15 am CR 4
Life Groups		Sign-up on Realm
October 3	Chili Cook-off	5-8 pm Nave
October 4	Blessing of the Pets	3-5 pm Parking Lot
October 6	Praise and Prayer	7-8:30 pm Nave
October 10	Ladies Coffee	9:30-11:30 IHOP
October 18	One Service Sunday	9:30 am
	Parish Meeting and Picnic	
October 18	Cruciform	5:00-7:00pm CR1

How has Giving Blessed You? Immanuel Church is looking for short testimonies from people who have stepped out in faith in their giving to God and been surprised or blessed (or both) by the results. Please consider telling your story either during a Sunday service or in a video interview. If you have a story, please contact Rosemarie Fitzsimmons at rosefitz.portraitwriter@gmail.com for more information.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Cupboard Ministry: For the month of September, we are collecting Pasta, Rice and Peanut Butter. The food cupboard is to the left as you enter the storage room located between classrooms 1 & 2.

Blessing Bags: Updated lists for the contents of the Blessing Bags are available. Please pick one and fill a bag for a woman in need. To date 44 purses for the ACTS Domestic Violence shelter have been delivered! Thank you to all who have donated to this ministry. Please contact Lee or Jennifer Roberds at (703) 298-5240 if you have any questions.

You Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Child!

Backpacks 4 Kids: is a mission of Immanuel at ML King Elementary School. During the school year, we prayerfully provide bags of food for guidance counselors to place in the backpacks of children who otherwise would not have much to eat over the weekends. How you can help: 1) Give financially and /or provide non-perishable food: Individual cartons of milk, pre-packaged meals, breakfast or trail bars, fruit cups, mac and cheese, etc. 2) Help pack food once every 4-5 weeks 3) Most importantly, *PRAY for students, teachers, and families to know how much the Lord Jesus loves them. POC: Pat Tony - patbtony@gmail.com

Blessing of the Pets: calling all creatures great and small....Immanuel will host the blessing of the pets on October 4, from 3-5 pm in the church parking lot. You may sign-up [here](#).

Chili Cook-off: Join the Immanuel family for the fall Chili cook-off and line dancing on October 3, from 5-8 at the church. You can sign-up [here](#). For more information contact Cathy Riddle at criddle10000@gmail.com.

MISSION TRIPS

Kevin Robertson is in Indonesia to serve with Joni and Friends Wheels for the World(TM) . He will then continue to meet with other in-country mission partners. He asks for prayer for all those whom God has called to be served and hear His Good News.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Immanuel Kids: In the jungle, every day is an unpredictable adventure! But to safely navigate the vines, animals, and tricky terrain, we'll need a guide to help lead us. This four-week series follows the life of Moses and his journey to leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Through his story, we'll discover how God teaches us how to lead, and learn how to follow God's lead as God leads us to safety, and to what we need.

Youth Ministry: Middle and high school students meet on most Sundays from 12-1:30 PM; on the second Sunday of each month, they meet from 6-8 p.m. For more information, contact dtomchek@aol.com.

Sunday Night Men's Bible Study: The men meet each Sunday night except the third Sunday of the month which is reserved for Cruciform. The next meeting will be on September 27 in classroom 4 beginning at 7pm. The men finished the study of Daniel and will start a new study on 1st, 2nd and 3rd John entitled "Abide" by Jen Wilkin. If you have any questions, contact Mike Harpster [here](#) or Scott Finney [here](#).

Women's Monday Night Bible Study: We are taking a short hiatus. Our study of Mark will resume using N.T. Wright's study guide, chapter 15, looking at Mark 12 on October 5 at 7 p.m. via ZOOM. Please contact Kathy Oravetz at 571-334-8786 or koravetzdpt@gmail.com for more information.

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. The next dinner will be on September 28, at Olive Garden located at 14405 Gideon Dr., Woodbridge. New attendees are always welcome so come and join us and bring someone with you.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: Join this Bible study beginning **October 6th** as we embark on Melissa Spoelstra's study on *Angels: Finding Hope in God who Reigns Over Heaven and Earth*. Melissa traverses the terrain of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation to learn about angels—who they are, what they do, and what they have to do with you. There's no reason to fear or ignore what's happening in the supernatural, unseen realm—we can live with confidence that God is in control of it all. **Angels** is a call to put your hope in the God of angel armies who reigns over heaven and earth. We meet Tuesdays at 10:00 am in Room 1, or you can click [here](#) to join via Zoom: Meeting ID: 859 5395 5885

Passcode: 642280. Contact Barbara Finney to pre-order your workbook (\$22.00) or to ask any questions: 703-405-2651 or blynn56@verizon.net

Tuesday Ladies Dinner: The next dinner will be at House of Chou located at 12508 Dillingham Square, Woodbridge, on October 20, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Please RSVP [here](#).

Saturday Morning Men's Discussion: It's time to restart our Saturday Morning Men's Group! Our first study session will take place on Saturday, September 26, at 8:00 am in classroom 1. We will be going through N.T Wright's book "Romans for Everyone" (we will have books available for purchase). For this first session, we will be discussing the Romans 1:1-7. if you have any questions, please contact David Robertson at: drobertson1952@verizon.net or 703-470-1620.

Saturday Morning Ladies Coffee: Once a month on the second Saturday, the Immanuel ladies will meet for coffee. The next meeting is October 10, 2026, at 9:30 am at IHOP on Hoadly Road. Please register [here](#). For more information contact Monika Dew at 202-257-2348.

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

Cruciform: Join the men of Immanuel and the community on October 18, 2026, for a deep dive into men's decision-making paths at Cruciform Crossroad Conversations - a journey of self-discovery and growth. Real talk. Real faith. Real growth. Participate in in-depth conversations about the challenges men are navigating in today's world. Bring a

friend. Open to all men from all churches - 18+. Food included.

Men's Fall Retreat – Save the Date! November 6-8, 2026
Cacapon Resort State Park, Berkeley Springs, WV. This weekend is designed to strengthen your relationship with God and foster deeper connections with other men of faith. We're excited to welcome a new speaker, Matthew Yi, who has preached at Immanuel in the past. He will lead us in a powerful time of teaching on the theme: 5 Truths, One Hope. Retreat Highlights Include: Inspiring Teaching with Matthew Yi, Group Sessions & Reflection Time, Outdoor Activities (Hiking, Golfing, Skeet Shooting) Fellowship & Worship.

Registration opens on Aug 14. A registration link will be sent via email using our church's software, **Realm**. Participants must use that software to register. Or click [here](#):



If you are not a member of Immanuel but wish to attend, please provide your email address to receive the registration link. Contact Nick Makrides (nickmakrides@yahoo.com) or Bob Mann (mannrm@comcast.net) to be added to the list. To complete your registration, a \$100 deposit is required. Deposits can be submitted in the offering, clearly marked "Men's Retreat." or directly to church office personnel. Deposits will be accepted from Aug 14 through Oct 6, or until all rooms are filled—so be sure to register early! Costs are Single Room: \$370.00 or Double Room: \$260.00/person. Full payment is due by Oct 25. Due to limited lodging, this

year's retreat is open to men age 18 and older. Don't miss this opportunity for spiritual renewal, connection, and encouragement. We look forward to seeing you there!

Women's Book Club: After great discussion on our classic read for the month, time to move forward to a fascinating book called: Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawson. It is a historical fiction based on the life of a woman whose name should have gone down in history. Book club will meet on October 13, at 7 PM at Kathy Westcott's house, 3708 Beaver Ford Rd Woodbridge. Please let her know if you plan to be there or not at 703-987-5206(cell) or 703-670-6641 at home. Email is ktwestcott@gmail.com. Call or text Cathleen Giannini at 703-851-0908 with questions.

Save the Date: The women's retreat will be held May 21-23, 2027, at a new location. Join the ladies for a fun weekend of study, fellowship and good food at Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearnsville, West Virginia. For more information contact Barbara Finney at blynn56@verizon.net or Taira Oravetz at tairaoravetz@gmail.com Registration coming soon.

Financial Update thru August 31, 2026

Operations

Revenue	\$424,395.94
Expenses	<u>\$332,831.78</u>
Net	\$ 91,564.16

Building

Revenue	\$148,452.21
Expenses	<u>\$ 68,190.46</u>
Net	\$ 80,261.75

The Operations fund pays for salaries & admin costs, mission outreach, ministry expenses (such as children, youth and adult, altar guild, fellowship), and facility expenses (such as insurance, maintenance of property, equipment costs). The building fund pays for the monthly mortgage, that loan amount due monthly is \$15,420.

County Community Activities

Art in Motion: a one woman show with mixed media paintings, featuring Susie Jerome. The show is currently running through October 28, at the Montclair Community Library located at 5049 Water Way Drive, Dumfries, VA.

Manassas Chorale: will perform *Let Freedom Ring!* on Saturday, October 10, 2026, 7:30 pm at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

Bill Mehr Banquet: The Cooperative Council of Ministries' (CCoM) is hosting the 9th Annual Bill Mehr Banquet at St. Matthews Lutheran Church located at 12351 All Saints Place, Woodbridge on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 6-9:00 pm. You can purchase tickets [here](#). All proceeds will benefit the Bill Mehr Drop-in Center for the Homeless and our direct aid programs.

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

Lost and found items can be found in the basket 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.

Please note the configuration pictures in each room on the wall near the light switch. After your meeting, please return the room to the arrangement in the picture without exception. All rooms are used for many different activities. Please return the tables to the closet at the end of the session.

Parking Lot

If you or your group need to leave vehicles in the parking lot overnight during an activity, please give the Parish Administrator the make, model and license number of the vehicle, and your departure and return dates and times. Vehicles left in the parking lot without notification are subject to towing at the owner's expense.