The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church
Prince William County

November 8, 2026

Pastor's Corner
"The Refiner's Fire"

This past All Saints I mentioned how the Church's honoring of saints began by remembering martyrs, those who said "Yes" to Jesus even though it meant suffering and death. Continuing to say "yes" to God even in the midst of suffering is indeed the mark of a saint, whether Saint Margaret of Antioch and her torture, or Saint Ignatius of Loyola and his shattered leg, or Saints Kathy and Andy Oravetz of Immanuel and their "wild ride this year."

St. Kathy shared her reflections on being in the "refiner's fire," and I knew all of you would be encouraged by her insight:

"**He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.**"
(Malachi 3:3)

Many of you know Andy and I have been on a wild ride this year. Our plans are not the Lord's plans. God's plans appear from the outside as distractions and side roads. Even as something sent from the Enemy. The perspective changes when we see them from God's perspective. Prayers from our church family, and our extended families, support in the form

of meals, transportation, and visits all help to give us hope and support our faith. What more do we need?

And then the Lord speaks through a social media post. What? Social media? Seems impossible, but God is the God of impossible! This social media post gave insight into Malachi 3:3, "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." Similar references are also found in Psalm 66:10, Isaiah 1:25, Daniel 11:35, and Zechariah 13:9. Paraphrasing the post:

Not knowing anything about how silver is refined, a person goes to a silversmith to learn about refining silver. The silversmith explained that in refining silver, one needs to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames are hottest to burn away all the impurities. He has to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it is in the fire. If the silver is left even a moment too long in the flames, it will be damaged."

"How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiles and answers, "Oh, that's easy. When I see my image in it."

God wants to burn out the impurities in me so that I reflect His image.



A google search found this information about refining silver: "*The old-school approach uses heat – lots of it. Pyrometallurgical refining basically means burning the hell out of your silver until it's pure.*" (Complete Guide to Refining Silver at Home or Professionally - Goldture

Now I don't usually use 4-letter words, and I know the writer wasn't using this description in the literal sense that I heard…God is burning the sin/hell out of my life so that His image can be seen.

I often expect life to be easy, without conflict, being free from difficulties and sin. Jesus already paid the price for my sin so now I should be on easy street. I know that isn't true, but sometimes I have that attitude. So, when times are tough, I can get a bad attitude about how I can' t do what I want to do. These are the times God is holding me in the refining fire, watching carefully to burn off the impurity without damaging me, looking to see His image in my life. Knowing this doesn't make the fire less hot, just reminds me that He is there, He has a purpose for this time, and is actively watching over me. He loves me so much that He is working to get rid of the bad parts of me…the bad attitude, the self-centeredness, the ungodly traits that make me slip and fall from His perfect path so I can reflect His image to those around me.

May you grow in your awareness that our Father sits with you in your suffering, his eyes never leaving your face, as you becoming ever more capable of reflecting his image. "Lord," prayed St. Margaret," you have granted me to go through fire for your name."

Your Pastor in Christ,

Travis +

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
Nov 6-8	Men's Retreat	Cacapon Resort
Nov 7	Ladies Tea	Harding Home 2:00pm
Nov 14	Ladies Coffee	9:30 am IHOP
Nov 15	Pledge Sunday	Both services
	Cruciform	5:00-7:00pm CR1
	Angle Tree Coming Soon	
Nov 17-18	Hilda Barg	Sign-up on Realm
Nov 22	Bishop Visit	Both Services
	Confirmation	
Nov 29	First Sunday of Advent	

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Needed: One of our nursery workers has given her notice and will soon be leaving, and we are so grateful to her for her faithful service to our children and parents! Recruiting her replacement will take some time. If you have completed the Ministry Safe process and would be willing to be in the nursery for one Sunday only, please contact Deb Tomchek through the church office at office@iachurch.org or 703-340-3120. We will need volunteers beginning Sunday, November 8. Thank you for considering this request, and for serving and loving our littlest children as Jesus loves them.

Food Cupboard Ministry: For the months of October & November we are collecting foods for Thanksgiving - canned yams, pumpkin or fruit filling, canned vegetables, pie crust mix, evaporated milk, cranberry sauce, cans or packets of gravy, chicken or turkey stock, cornbread or biscuit mix, instant potatoes and stuffing mix...you get the idea. The food cupboard is to the left as you enter the storage room located between classrooms 1 & 2.

Hilda Barg: Immanuel Anglican Church will be providing meals to the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center on Tuesday November 17, and Wednesday November 18. Please sign up here to prepare and deliver one or more of the items listed. Please review the "additional items" to see what items are available. All dishes should be fully prepared and ready to serve. Residents have the following food allergies; **pork**. Food should be delivered to the Hilda Barg Center between 6:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Your ministry to this community is greatly appreciated and your generosity helps shine the light of Jesus to our neighbors in need.

LIFE FIRST SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Life First, pregnancy resource center in Manassas, is collecting BABY/YOUNG CHILDREN BOOKS to give to Moms and Dads at one of the upcoming parenting classes. They will be learning about the importance of literacy, how and why to read to children, and suggestions for keeping children engaged in ready throughout their lives. You can choose any book you like and give to Paul or Cathleen Giannini and they will bring it to the center. OR you can order from Life First Book Registry and it will go directly to the center. Click here.

Backpacks 4 Kids: First, please **PRAY** for students, teachers, and families of ML King Elem. to know how much the Lord Jesus loves them. "Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:1

THANKS to our awesome volunteers, this month we packed **156 Food bags** for the guidance counselors to place in the backpacks of children who otherwise would not have much to eat over the weekends. **WHAT'S** in a bag of non-perishable food provided for the children?

> Individual cartons of milk, pre-packaged meals, breakfast / trail bars, fruit cups, mac and cheese, canned veggies, and more:)

A FEW copies are yet available on the table in the hallway entrance of the Bell family adventure series for a donation of $5. Every gift helps! Pat Tony - patbtony@gmail.com

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Immanuel Kids: Racers, start your engines! In a race, you might need to navigate obstacles, pit stops, and tight turns in order to stay on the right track. As you're zooming through the track there's so much to think about, and it can be hard to stay focused on what's most important! In this four-week series, we'll learn some important stories from Joshua about how obstacles are no problem for God and courage comes from knowing God's words. No matter how long the race, God can use someone like you because with God there is victory! Children's Church teachers' and assistants' meeting: November 15, 12:30-1:30, in the classroom 2.

Youth Ministry: Youth Group will meet Sunday, November 8, after the 10:30 Service, in Classroom 4. The Second Sunday evening activities have been cancelled. For more information, please text Rosemarie Fitzsimmons at 703-314-8348.

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 November 8, in classroom 4 beginning at 7pm. The men are studying 1st, 2nd and 3rd John entitled "Abide" by Jen Wilkin. If you have questions, contact Mike Harpster here or Scott Finney here.

Women's Monday Night Bible Study: We are using N.T. Wright's study guide on Mark. November 9 we will be discussing chapter 18, looking at Mark 14:26-72 via ZOOM. You can join us in your jammies, and pets can be present as well! NOTE: there is a new ZOOM link. If you have

not received the link 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 November 9, at Tony's Pizza located at 13629 Dumfries Road, Manassas. New attendees are always welcome so come and join us and bring someone with you.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: Join this Bible study as we continue our study Melissa Spoelstra's study on *Angels: Finding Hope in God who Reigns Over Heaven and Earth*. *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 Los Toltecos located at 4120 Merchant Plaza, Woodbridge, on November 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Please RSVP here.

The Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study: There will be NO Men's Bible Study Meeting this coming Saturday, November 7th, because the Men's Retreat is happening that weekend. The next Men's Bible Study Meeting will be on Saturday, November 14th at 8:00 AM. We are studying "Romans for Everyone" by N.T. Wright and we will be discussing Romans 1:28-32. Books are available for $15. We start at 8:00 am in Room 1. Coffee and donuts are provided. Laughter is

free. For more information, contact David Robertson at 703-470-1620 (text is best). Join us and bring a friend or join us via ZOOM here.

Saturday Morning Ladies Coffee: Once a month on the second Saturday, the Immanuel ladies will meet for coffee. The next meeting is November 14, 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 November 21, 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 November 15, 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+. Join the men in CR1 for food and then into the Nave for the program.

Immanuel Anglican Church Women's Book Club: The next women's book club will meet on November 10th at 7 PM. We will meet at the home of Monika Dew, 14315 Raddock Ct in Woodbridge. We are reading, *Theo of Golden*, by Allen Levi. Please let Monika know if you will be there. Her phone number is 202-257-2348 or email at morningdewgreen@hpotmail.com. This is a book everyone is talking about so hope to see you there.

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.

Finance update thru September 30, 2026

Operations

Revenue	$468,554.85
Expenses	$365,722.27
Net	$102,832.58

Building

Revenue	$161,739.21
Expenses	$ 76,409.68
Net	$ 85,329.53

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 church is required to have a net income at the end of the year of $80,000, to meet the Debt Service Coverage Ratio in the loan documents. Currently the net income is a little higher than that because parishioners have paid their annual pledge in advance.

The **Building Fund** pays for the monthly mortgage. The monthly loan payment is $15,420. Only the interest portion

of this expense is recorded on the income statement. The [principal portion is recorded on the balance sheet. Since all income is recorded on the income statement but only interest is posted against it, it appears as though there is excess money. The church has paid $72,558.29 in principal payments. The remainder is prepaid pledges.

County Community Activities

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.