



The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church
Prince William County

December 7, 2025

Pastor's Corner "Praying through Advent"

There are many ways to engage the Advent season, **intentionally re-orienting yourself to the coming of Jesus**. Using Advent Wreaths and Jesse Trees are helpful, as is participating in Immanuel's Advent Oasis each Wednesday in December. There is another wonderful resource found on pages 598-599 in our Book of Common Prayer 2019: Advent Collects.

A "collect" is a short, formal prayer that *collects* the individual intentions of the gathered people of God into a single expression of worship and intercession. For example, we open with the "Collect for Purity" every Sunday, asking Almighty God to "cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit." Weekly we also pray "The Collect of the Day" before the reading of Scriptures—our prayer book assigns a different prayer each week for this section, including ones specific to Advent.

Pay attention to these Advent Collects. Taken together, they *"offer both a concise introduction to the season of Advent and a rich overview of the grace God offers to sinners"* (Peter Johnston). Last week the collect oriented us toward both comings of Jesus, and asked for grace *"to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."* This upcoming week the importance of the Holy Scriptures is brought to the forefront, as we ask for grace *"to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them."* In the

final two weeks we'll pray for the revelation of mysteries, the turning of hearts, and the stirring up of the power of God.

I encourage you to weave these Advent Collects into your Advent disciplines. Alone or with a companion or as a family, daily pray the collect for the week, perhaps at a mealtime, or upon waking, or just before going to bed. Notice how the Spirit will shape your thoughts and actions as you do.

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.

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](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85934655171) 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 3	Advent Oasis	5-7:30pm Nave
Dec 10	Advent Oasis	5-7:30pm Nave
Dec 17	Advent Oasis	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	

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettia and Wreath Delivery and Request for Help: Thank you for ordering poinsettias and wreaths to support our youth retreat. They will be delivered on Saturday morning and can be picked up on Sunday between and after services. We could use the assistance of one or two volunteers with trucks or spacious SUVs to meet us at Meadows Farm at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. Please call Rose Fitzsimmons if you're available.

Angel Tree Tag Sundays: This Sunday (Dec. 7th!) is the day to return all Angel Tree gifts! Please bring your wrapped item *with the Angel Tree tag (attached to the gift)* to the sanctuary on Sunday so we can give thanks to the Lord for His provision and bless the gifts during the service, before they are delivered to our families at Beville Middle School. Thank you for supporting this ministry and being a blessing this holiday season! Please contact Kristi Ellison (ellisonfam@verizon.net) if you have had any problems with your tag/order.

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.

Thanksgiving in the Park--the day after: What a blessing it was to meet with all 60 of you for a Thanksgiving meal in the park. It looked as if everyone had a great time, and most assuredly, nobody went home hungry! Kudos to you for bringing every bowl and serving platter home. The only "new" item we collected is a mint-green kitchen towel. If it's yours, let us know. We'd love to make this an annual event and welcome your feedback. Should we do it again? Jerry and Rose Fitzsimmons

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

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 7, 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 8, at 5:00 pm at El Paso Mexican Restaurant located at 3031 Golansky Blvd., Woodbridge. New attendees are always welcome so come and join us and bring someone with you.

Women's Monday Night Bible Study: Continues next Monday using Sarah K. Howley's book "Word: An 11 Session Study of Matthew". The group meets via ZOOM on Mondays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 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 to Teharpster@comcast.net by December 10, 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 Barribeau'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

Woodbridge Community Choir: The Community Choir, under the direction of Lee Irwwin Culbreth will present *Sing We Now* on Saturday, December 6, at 8:00 pm and Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 pm at the Felazzo Building Auditorium located at 15941 Donald Curtis Drive in Woodbridge. An additional performance is planned for Sunday, December 21, at 2:00 pm at the National Museum of the Marine Corps located at 1775 Semper Fidelis Way in Triangle. Admission to all performances is free.

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.