



The Weekly

Immanuel Anglican Church
Prince William County

October 4, 2026

Pastor's Corner "Synod 2026"

November 12-14, representatives from all the churches in our Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic will gather for our annual Synod. I asked Andy Oravetz, one of Immanuel's lay delegates and a person knowledgeable of the inner workings of Anglican polity, to tell us more about this important gathering:

Growing up one of the things that I enjoyed was a holiday dinner at my grandmother's. Coming from a very large extended family, there was always large amounts of food, especially desserts, all homemade. Well, now older, I still look forward to certain annual meetings. One of these is the annual meeting ([Synod](#)) of the Diocese that Immanuel is a part of, the [Diocese of the Mid Atlantic](#). Once a year in November, the deacons and presbyters of the diocese, along with lay delegates chosen by the individual churches and the lay members of the Standing Committee gather for several days. Immanuel's lay delegation is Mike Harpster, Gary Motsek, and Andrew Oravetz. Monika Dew is the alternate. Angela Morlu is attending in her capacity as a lay member of the Standing Committee. Travis Hines+ will attend as a clergy member of the Diocese.

The clergy gather first with Bishop Warner Thursday afternoon through Friday morning. This is followed by the arrival of the lay delegates. Friday afternoon consists of an excellent group of speakers. After an evening meal, the night ends with the ordinations of deacons and a service of Holy Eucharist.

[The Synod](#) concludes Saturday morning with the business meeting. The Bishop gives an address which is followed by elections to diocesan committees and adoption of the annual budget.

Regarding Synod, Bishop Warner writes, “The theme for this year’s Synod is, Rooted. Why Rooted? It’s an obvious reminder that our roots in the gospel and the Anglican tradition shape our work of ministry, but it’s also a call to remember that fruitful ministry depends on deepening roots in Christ. This year Truro Anglican Church in Fairfax, VA is hosting, and we’re hopeful this will be a memorable time of worship, fellowship, learning, and celebrating all that God is doing throughout the diocese.”

He continues, “Rooted isn’t simply the theme of our Synod. It’s an invitation to remember who we are and whose we are, as we worship together, encourage one another, and look toward the future God is calling us into. Saturday includes the business of Synod, but it will also be a time to hear and celebrate stories of God’s faithfulness. We’ll share reports and testimonies highlighting the good work happening through our churches, clergy, and ministries across the Diocese.

“Whether this is your first Synod or you’ve been coming for years, Synod 2026: Rooted is a chance to worship together,

connect with one another, be equipped for ministry, and celebrate what God is doing among us."

While only delegates may vote at Synod, everyone is invited to attend the gatherings on November 13-14. [Register here](#) if you'd like to participate in this time of worship, teaching, and encouragement. I strongly encourage you to join us!

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
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 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.

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.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Immanuel Kids: Can you imagine needing to walk through the desert? You'd be surrounded by cacti, sand, snakes, and more sand. With the heat of the sun, we'd wind up so thirsty and wondering "Are we there yet?" That's probably how the Israelites felt as they wandered around the desert, waiting to enter the Promised Land. But no matter how tired our feet get, we can focus on what's happening in our lives right now rather than just on where we're going. In this five-week series based on stories from Exodus, we'll explore how **we can choose to be thankful, love God and others, turn to God when we're lost, go to God when we need rest, and remember God's promises.**

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 October 4, 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 will resume meeting via ZOOM on October 5 at 7 p.m., using N.T. Wright's study guide, chapter 15, looking at Mark 12. Please contact Kathy Oravetz at [571-334-8786](tel: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 October 5, at Hector's located in the Old Mill Building, lower parking lot of Tackets Mill, 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](#).

The Saturday Morning Men's Discussion group: will meet again on Saturday, October 3rd at 8:00 AM. We are studying "Romans for Everyone" by N.T. Wright and we are intentionally "taking it slow" to give us ample time to dig deep and mine the spiritual riches of this important and challenging epistle. This coming Saturday, we will be discussing Romans 1:8-13. 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 on 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 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 – only 1 single room and 2 double rooms left for the Men's Retreat, Nov 6-8 at Cacapon Resort State Park in Berkeley Springs, WV. Deposit is \$100 and must be paid by Oct 6. For more information and to register use Realm or the QR code below. Don't miss out!



Contact Bob Mann (mannrm@comcast.net) or Nick Makrides (nickmakrides@yahoo.com) for more information.

Women's Book Club: This month's read is *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.

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.