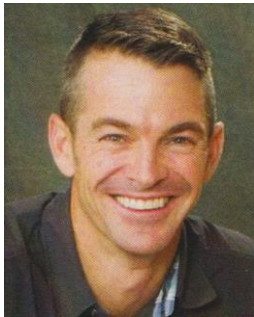




November 2018

*“We exalt God above all by evangelizing, equipping and embracing all nations.”*



### THANKSGIVING

Psalm 138

What are you thankful for this season? I would imagine that this is a question you’ll be asked frequently over the course of the coming month.

Whether it be in the context of family, church, work, or your fellow fantasy football leaguers November is the month purposed by our nation for thanksgiving. We even have a specific day set aside on which we stop all labor, drive, in some cases fly, for hundreds of miles so that we may be with those we love as we celebrate. What are you thankful for this season?

I love Thanksgiving. I enjoy all of the events associated with this holiday. Spending time with family, feasting and watching football are activities that make me very happy. Every year, our family makes a point of taking time to share the many things for which we are thankful. I’ll ask the question, “What are you thankful for this season?” And hear a host of answers: our family, our church, our home, our pets...you name it we’ll likely say it. And following this season of thanksgiving, we’ll close our time with prayer. We are a family truly blessed.

For as long as I can remember, November’s question has always been, “What are you thankful for this season?” And it makes complete sense. We must have a reason to celebrate and what better way to

identify that reason than by answering the question, right? But have you ever stopped to consider, “How are you thankful?”

In Psalm 138, David sings “I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; before the ‘gods’ I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name.” In this song of thanksgiving, David doesn’t begin by listing the many things for which he is thankful. He gets to that later on. David first addresses the question, “How are you thankful?” Israel’s king’s thanks is expressed by His words and His actions. David sings and he bows down. In essence, he worships. David doesn’t simply list that for which he is grateful; he explains how he expresses his thanks.

And Immanuel, this is a question that I would like us to ponder this season. For we are a people truly blessed. God lavished His love upon us. He has provided us with protection, with peace, and with His presence. He has met and continues to meet all of our needs. We could and should spend much time this holiday speaking those things for which we give God thanks. But before we do, I would like us to consider “How are we thankful?” How may we express our thanks in 2018? What actions will we employ, what attitudes will we embody, and with what words will we endeavor to express our thanks to the God of our salvation.

How are we thankful, Immanuel?

Rejoice!

Andrew Morgan



Coffee Fellowship

We have coffee in the Fellowship Hall before Sunday School every Sunday morning. Join us for fellowship and a cup of coffee every Sunday.

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

Judy Myers (east)  
Rory van Brackel (south)  
Heather van Brackel (west)

NOTE: Feel free to change doors assigned. This way you may meet new or old friends!!!



The deadline for submitting items of interest for the December **newsletter** is November 21. Please observe this deadline.

## WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Dinner is provided at 5:30. Please sign up for these dinners so that we can prepare the appropriate portions. Also, sign up to take a turn at providing a dessert. Following are the menus for November:

- 7 - Beef stew
- 14 - Baked ziti
- 21 - No evening activities
- 28 - Chili, baked potato

The Adult Discipleship, the Youth, Mission Friends, GAs, and RAs will meet at 6:15.

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

The dinner will be held on Sunday, November 11. Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

## CONDOLENCES

We express sincere sympathy to Dolly Workman and her family in the recent death of her husband, Sam.

**\*\*\*IMMANUEL ON MISSION\*\*\***

### Praises

- The Missions Committee had a very encouraging meeting to share experiences and give thanks to God.
- ESL classes are serving more students this year at Providence and the YMCA.
- The Antique Car Club is joining us for Trunk or Treat Night at East Salisbury School.
- Another couple is joining James and Sarah to train pastors.

### Our Mission Partners

- Free English Salisbury (ESL) is meeting again on Thursdays at Providence and on Tuesdays at the YMCA and they are continuing the Bible Study for women Tuesday afternoons at Immanuel.
  - Redemption City Church is very thankful to have a venue in the heart of their community, as well as newly rented church office space. Their attendance is growing steadily as they see the baptism of new members and many gospel community small groups meeting in homes each week. Please continue to pray for their growing ministry to the city of Baltimore and their growing membership.
  - James and Sarah (IMB) continue training those planting reproducing churches. Pray for their new teammates trying to find places to live and for success with language study. Continue to pray for their national partners.
  - Paul had a great meeting in Thailand with leaders in Bible translation, getting many ideas. The Budu Nita team is checking 1 Corinthians and Philippians this month, praying for good health for the project director and successful work before the Christmas break. Laurel and their children enjoyed time with friends in Entebbe. Two families with six children produced fun aplenty all day long. Pray for good relationships between all their Isiro neighbors and resolution of the Ebola outbreak in an unstable region far from them.
- ### Our Members on Mission
- The Lincoln family is in Morocco.
  - Jessica and Will Wiley as he continues his studies at Southern seminary.
  - Emely Martin is serving as a student leader with Campus CRUsade at SU.
  - Cotter leads a Bible Study for students at SU Tuesday mornings.

-East Salisbury Elementary School Trunk or Treat was on October 31.

-Cotter and Emily are hosting a young adult small group on Thursdays.

-The church is preparing shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse.

-Mike Law is serving as chaplain at PRMC under HALO.

**Mission Education**

The GAs and RAs have joined together in an "Unshakeable Pursuit" of God as our Pastor and elders pray through Scripture in our Sunday services.

**Giving to Missions**

WMU

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Ministry

For the past 25 years Samaritan's Purse has been collecting and delivering shoeboxes filled with gifts to children in need around the world. It's not too late to bring in some individual items to be packed at the church on November 7. All filled boxes should be turned in by November 11.

MD/DE State Missions Offering

Our goal for this year was \$2,500. Offerings for this year totaled \$3,311. Many projects in the two-state area will be funded so that activities helping college students, people with disabilities, church planting, disaster relief, and many more will feel the presence of our Lord working through the prayers and giving of God's people.

Global Hunger Relief

Immanuel's giving for hunger relief has been very generous - \$1,259.26. This mission to alleviate hunger and suffering throughout the world will dispense food and clean water to needy people at home and abroad. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

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**PRAYER POINTERS**

*Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (I Thes. 5:16)*

Over the past few months, we have looked at two elements of prayer, praising God and confessing our sins. This month, we will focus on a third element, giving thanks. We praise God for who He is, but

then we must thank God for what He has done in our lives.

Living in a nation that is so blessed, even Christians tend to take things for granted. However, when we take time to count our blessings, we can hardly help being thankful! For example, if God did not keep the Earth tilted at an exact angle, we would either burn up or freeze to death. How about the amazing and intricate way our body works; do we thank God for giving us another day of life because He is keeping us breathing and our hearts beating? How many times do we thank God for warm homes in winter, for a bed to sleep in, and for a refrigerator filled with food? These things are so normal and expected, we sometimes forget they are God-given. "Every good and perfect gift is from above. . . "(James 1:17)

Many Christians spend time lifting up requests to God because He invites us to ask. However, when our prayers are answered, we sometimes forget to thank Him for what He has done. Even worse, our sinful nature may lead us to take credit for the answer instead of giving the glory to God. Before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus thanked the Father for hearing Him and stated, "I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." (John 11:42) We would do well to follow Christ's example of giving glory to God for answered prayer so that others might believe.

Finally, do we thank God for prayers that seem to go unanswered or not answered in the way we wanted or expected? It is difficult to thank God when we are experiencing hardship, but we are to thank God in all circumstances, knowing that He is working for our good and that He wants to make us more like His Son. (Romans 8:28-29)

The Bible is rich in passages about thanksgiving. In I Chronicles 29:12-13, David thanks God for wealth and honor, acknowledging that they come from Him. In Psalm 118:21, the psalmist thanks God for salvation. Daniel thanks God for wisdom and power in Daniel 2:23. The leper thanks Jesus for healing him in Luke 17: 16. Jesus Himself gives thanks for food when feeding the multitude in Matthew 15:36-37, and at the Last Supper in Mark 14:23.

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving, but we should be reminded to give thanks every day. In Paul's letter to the Colossian church, Paul says, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6,7) May we at Immanuel always be overflowing with thankfulness!

*Submitted by Cindy Bennett*

### **BOX TOPS for EDUCATION**

This is a reminder that we are still collecting box tops for East Salisbury School. There is a box in the back of the sanctuary for your collections.

### **PAINTING PROJECT**

There will be a fun painting event in honor of Jenny Blankenship on November 3 from 10:00 a.m. – noon. Cost of \$25 includes all materials.

### **MISSION OPPORTUNITY**

Quinn and Martha Morgan will be visiting Paul and family in the Congo in December. They will be able to take some much needed items for the family. If you would like to contribute, go to Amazon.com under Laurel and Paul Morgan to find a list of things they need. Items should be given by the end of November. If you have any questions, see Martha.

### **ATTENTION MEN**

There will be a Men's Ministry Breakfast on November 17 at 8:00 a.m. All men are invited for breakfast and fellowship.



## **COTTER'S COMMENTS**

Immanuel, thank you for your prayers for our youth, young adults, and college students!

This month the youth continued our study of Psalms. It has been great to study these Psalms together and

see how we can reach out to God during the highs and lows of life. The College Bible Study and the Young Adult Small Group both continued with our studies through the book of Colossians this month.

During the last Sunday of October, Emily and I had the privilege of attending church with my sister and her family as my niece (Layni) and nephew (Rowan) were baptized! Both of them attended our VBS here at Immanuel this summer and some of you may remember seeing them here. It was an incredible experience to see the two of them publicly declare their faith and it was encouraging to know that their faith was impacted by our VBS ministry!

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **MEDICAL NEEDS**

Bounds, Amy  
Baker, Penny  
Davis, Pat – Leukemia  
Hall, Barry -- Treatments  
Hamula, Tina – (B. Nibblett)  
Jordan, Kevin – Liver  
Jordan, Maryanne – Sciatic nerve  
Simpson, Joyce – Continue in prayer  
Tarr, Joann – Stage 1

### **LONG-TERM NEEDS**

Brandt, John – Chron's disease  
Cheek, Virginia – Genesis  
Duncan, Sue  
Henderson, Jeff – MS  
Merritt, Joan  
Muenster, Cindy  
Powell, Missy  
Schneider, Irving – Genesis (Centreville)  
Straub, Marge – Wicomico N.H.

*(Please let the office know when someone should be added or removed from these lists.)*

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3 Ken Baranowski  
4 Rosa Bean  
9 Virginia Cheek  
11 Diane Hann  
15 Mary Cox  
26 Josiah Morgan  
Paul Morgan  
29 Shane Wootten

