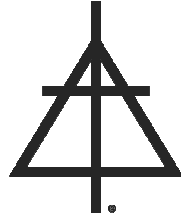


IMMANUEL CHURCH
Celebrating God's Love in Jesus Christ



A Vision Summary

Our Name

'Immanuel' is a Hebrew name meaning '*God is with us*'. This name is used in the New Testament to refer to the birth of Jesus in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Matthew 1:23). It reminds us of God's presence in our world through Jesus Christ and assures us of His promise to guide and help us in everything that we do.

Our Motto

Celebrating God's Love in Jesus Christ

Our Purpose

*We exist to celebrate God's love in Jesus Christ
and to share His love with others in the mid-Hudson Valley and beyond.*

Our Core Values

Gospel-Centered Faith

The center of our faith is the gospel (Greek for 'good news') of Jesus Christ. The gospel proclaims to us that although we are more sinful and broken than we ever realized, we are also more loved than we could ever imagine. Jesus came to live and die in our place and as a result we have forgiveness and renewed relationship with God. We strive to let this good news permeate everything that we do.

Loving Community

We are joined together by Jesus into a deep, loving community. Our community is diverse, yet we aim to be a place where we neither hide our differences nor divide over them. The One who is greater than us all knits us together by His grace. We foster authentic friendships through Community Groups in which we encourage, support, pray for, and love one another as spiritual brothers and sisters.

Engaging Worship

We believe that the goal of worship is to bring us face to face with God. We do not want to simply learn information about God; we want to truly hear God speak and know his presence. We are committed to engaging worship that applies the gospel to the hopes, dreams, struggles, and heartaches of real life. Every week we exalt the Creator of the universe, acknowledge our need for grace, and surrender our lives to Christ.

Growing Disciples

Each of us is on a journey with God intended for our growth in faith and faithfulness. We are all in different places in our journey but none of us has arrived at its end. We challenge each other to truly believe all that we profess and to live what we believe. We are not only Christians but Christ-followers, called to follow our master Jesus, to learn from Him, and to imitate Him.

Sacrificial Service & Outreach

We proclaim the gospel in both word and deed. We seek the spiritual, social, and cultural renewal of our communities inside and outside the church. We offer everyone the message of God's grace and we serve individuals and families through acts of love, kindness, and mercy. We see

ourselves as a part of God's mission to bring redemption and healing to the whole world.

Persistent Prayer

We seek God's presence in our lives and ministries through prayer. We humble ourselves before Him and ask Him to empower all that we do by His Spirit. In prayer, we thank God for all that He has given us and we ask Him to bring His kingdom and reveal His glory. Everything we do depends on God's grace. Since He has given us all we have, we will give Him all we are.

Our Beliefs

We believe that the Bible is authoritative and trustworthy for our faith and life and we return to it continually for all our beliefs. The heart of the Bible's teaching is summarized in the Apostles' Creed, an ancient summary of the historic Christian faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places*

Our Denominational Affiliation

Immanuel is a Christian Reformed Church (CRC) connected to the living tradition of the Reformed faith. The CRC has about 300,000 members in 1,000 congregations across the United States and Canada.

We call ourselves...

Christian because we belong to Jesus Christ and want to be his followers. We recognize as fellow-Christians all people who accept the teachings of the Bible as summarized in the Apostles' Creed.

Reformed because we grow on a branch of the church tree that emerged from the Protestant Reformation, which struggled to return Christianity to its biblical roots.

Church because God has called us to be a fellowship of his people in the world.

For more information about the beliefs and ethical positions of the CRC...

A summary of what we believe is available on our denomination's website (www.crcna.org/pages/beliefs.cfm). Over time, the Christian Reformed Church has also stated its position on a variety of contemporary topics (www.crcna.org/pages/positions.cfm).

Our Logo

Our logo is the cross in a triangle. The triangle represents the Trinity, our belief in the one God we know as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The cross symbolizes our belief in Jesus Christ's sacrificial death for our salvation. We share this logo with our denomination.