

# For church, 'chaos' is all about helping

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by Patty Machelor / Arizona Daily Star

A special anthem will be played at Immanuel Presbyterian Church this morning. The song, "Go With Christ," isn't to bring calm, or reflection. Chaos is the goal. "Holy Chaos."

The idea is to have everyone working on something different for the betterment of the community.

Even the chairs will face in a different direction.

"The idea is, we're going to be looking outward rather than inward," said Katie Maass, a member of the congregation.

After a brief service, activities will include repair and landscape work at New Beginnings for Women and Children, meal preparation at the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen and meals for families of deployed soldiers at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

There will also be a letter-writing campaign to end hunger, as well as a door-to-door campaign to raise awareness about foster parenting.

"We've had different hands-on experiences over time, but this is one where we're really going to try to shake people up and make them think (about helping others)," Maass said. "This is really about putting faith into action. People will either be writing letters or planting a garden or planning a meal.

"We really tried to come up with something for everybody."

Pastor John Tittle joined the congregation about two years ago after moving here from Chicago.

"I'd heard of different churches doing similar-type things before, and I really thought it would be perfect for our church at Immanuel," he said. "Worship isn't just something that you do inside four walls. It's also a way of life."

At the end of the morning, people will share their ideas and photos from the morning, then eat lunch together.

Liz Wallendorf is an elder and co-chair of the church's mission and outreach committee, which is overseeing the event.

"We wanted a way to give back to the community, to really live out the idea of the church not only gathering in worship, but also scattered in the community and out in the world," she said. "It's an opportunity for us to stretch ourselves."

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