

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 11      DECEMBER 2024



*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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### SHARE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

- SUNDAY SERVICE-11:00 AM
- CHOIR
- SUNDAY SCHOOL
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
- BIBLE STUDY
- ADULT EDUCATION HOUR
- SOCIAL MINISTRY
- OUTREACH
- HALF CENTURY GROUP



*Oh Holy Night*



# DECEMBER 2024



## SUNDAY WORSHIP - 11:00 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH US!!</b> WE SELL ACME/SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS! FOR EVERY GIFT CARD WE SELL WE GET 5%!! See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for additional information and the purchase of gift cards. Cash or checks are welcome</p>						
<p><b>1 Advent 1</b> Poinsettia Sale 10:00 AM Education Hour 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg. W&amp;M Mtg.</p>	2	3	<p>4 <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	5	<p>6 6:00 PM Bazaar Setup</p>	<p>7 9:00 AM-2:00 PM</p> 
<p><b>8 Advent 2</b> 10:00 AM Education Hour 12:00 PM Immanuel &amp; St. Matthew Joint Council Mtg.</p>	9	<p>10 2:15 PM Resource Mtg.</p>	<p>11 <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	12	13	14
<p><b>15 Advent 3</b> 10:00 AM Education Hour 12:00 PM</p> 	16	17	<p>18 <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study Ministerium "Blue Christmas Service"</p>	19	20	<p>21 <b>Cancelled</b> 1:00 PM Healing Service</p> 
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>						
<p><b>22 Advent 4</b> 10:00 AM Education Hour 11:00M Cantata</p>	23	<p>24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 6:00 PM Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 </p>	26	27	28
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>						
<p><b>29 Lessons &amp; Carols</b> 10:00 AM Education Hour</p>	30	31	<p><b>January 1</b> New Year's Day</p>		<p><b>The LAST DAY for 2024 contributions will be January 5, 2025.</b></p>	
<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>						

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## PASTOR'S PEN

Luther's explanation of the first commandment is both simple and profound: "You shall have no other gods". What does this mean? We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things. Sounds easy, right? Put God first in your life. Let Jesus take the wheel. Make God your pilot (and not, as saying goes, merely your co-pilot). As people of faith, I believe that we really do want to put God first. But it's so hard to do this!

I confess that, on a daily basis, I love and trust other things more than God. Yes, God is still in the picture, but so often gets crowded out by all the everyday stuff. I love my wife, my family, my friends, my country, my congregation. Sometimes these loves overshadow my love for God. I confess that I trust my own memory, my own instincts and intuitions, my deeply held political commitments, and the news sources that reinforce the beliefs I already have. Sometimes, these things guide my decisions more than my trust in God alone—even though I should know better. I confess that I often worry about pleasing other people more than I worry about pleasing the Lord. I fear rejection, and environmental catastrophe, and nuclear war, and all sorts of other things—even though I know that perfect love casts out fear.

Luther urges us to make the best choices we can and act anyway, trusting that the grace of God is greater than we are. Who's your God? The One who loves us more than we deserve. The One who knows us better than we know ourselves. The One who lifts us up when we fall. The One whose grace is always greater than our sin. *Peace and Blessings, Pastor*

## CHURCH STAFF

- *Pastor*  
*The Rev. Scott R. Lee*
- *Secretary*  
*Vi Mayberry*
- *Director of Music*  
*Kathleen Schneider*

## CHURCH COUNCIL

- *Fran Fisher*
- *Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus*  
**President**
- *Colleen Kelly*
- *Joe Kintsche*  
**Vice President**
- *Karl McClellan*
- *Joyce Morrison*  
**Secretary**
- *Jeanne Warner*  
**Treasurer**
- *Don Watts*
- *Robin Woodrow*



**LAST CHANCE~RAISERIGHT/SCRIPT GIFT CARDS** ~ Immanuel is selling gift cards for just about every store you may want. Immanuel will get a percentage back from sales. Forms are available on the table in the hospitality area or call the office and we will email you the form. Fill out form, make out your check payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and hand in to Jeanne Warner or the office.

**Last Date that orders will be sent in for purchase will be Dec 8th.** Please allow 2 weeks to receive the gift cards. If you don't see a store you need, you can go on-line at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) and see if it is available and add to your list or ask Jeanne Warner and she will check.



COME TO IMMANUEL LUTHERAN'S  
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Saturday, December 7th**

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Santa (10:30am-12:30pm) ~ Bake Sale ~ Cookie Walk ~  
Soup Sale ~ Craft Sale ~ Lunch ~ Katie's Attic

Last day to order **Poinsettia Plants** is **Sunday, December 1st.** The cost per Poinsettia plant is **\$8.00** each. Please use the envelope provided by the Altar Guild members for the completion of your order



The **Blue Christmas, a Service of Hope for the Holidays**, pays attention to the special needs of people who are "blue", sad or in pain at this holiday time. Local churches are combining efforts to hold this service at Christ Episcopal Church, Ridley Park on **December 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm.** This service blends elements of Christmas worship and the hope that Jesus can give to people who are in pain. This service is open to any individual or family that might find it helpful during the challenging holiday season.

*Blue Christmas*  
a Service of Hope for the Holidays



## HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### - Ministerium Blue Christmas Service -

Hosted by Christ Episcopal Church, Ridley Park  
Wednesday, December 18th - 7:00 PM

### - Christmas Cantata -

Sun., December 22nd - 11:00 AM

### - Candlelight Service -

Tues., Dec 24th Christmas Eve - 6:00 PM

### - Lessons & Carols -

Sunday, December 29th - 11:00AM



**Immanuel's 135<sup>th</sup> Memory Cross is Here!** The spirit of God has been flowing through Immanuel Lutheran Church for 136+ years! With that passage of time many, many wonderful memories, blessings and milestones have been created! You might recall that as part of our 135<sup>th</sup> celebration we decided to build a Memory cross! **It is HERE!** The cross is made up of multicolor craft sticks on which members wrote their family names, memories, milestones, activities, events, blessings, etc. It is temporarily hanging in the Hospitality area right by the entrance to the cloak room. Have a look! We are working on where it will be displayed permanently. If you have a suggestion, please see me. Thank you! Karl McClellan

**Church Council Nominations Coming Up. Are You Interested?** It's that time of year as we prepare for our annual meeting in 2025 that we develop the ballot for Church Council elections at the Annual meeting. This year we have our normal four terms of 3 years coming open and due to some other vacancies over the past few years, we have a unique opportunity to also fill one term of two years and two terms of 1 year. Additionally there are two terms of 1 year for Junior Council members. If you are interested in being considered to be on the ballot for church council please see one of the members of the nominating committee. Thank you!! **Nominating Committee: Joe Kintsche, Karl McClellan, Vicki Slotterback & Robin Woodrow**



**Be a voice, help shape the future of Immanuel!**

## We Are Thankful for Jesus's Birth!

Advent is here! What a blessed time of year is the Christmas season! The birth of our Savior is the greatest gift from God that we could ever receive! Thanks be to God! Thinking about God's amazing generosity, Advent is a great time to reflect on all the blessings that GOD has bestowed on us.

As you read in the previous newsletters, the dreaded "summer slump" in giving hit Immanuel very hard. We were very transparent about this. To those who have already responded, **THANK YOU!** To those who may not have yet, we urge you to please consider before the end of the year to: **Catch Up** and/or **Step Up** on your contributions.

**GREAT NEWS: You Did It! The Roof repairs are DONE and paid for!** Our sincere Thanks to those who gave to support this effort as we work together to care for our Lord's house.

**Thanks to Outreach for leading the "Because of God's Great Mercy" Stewardship campaign.** Your prayerful consideration of the "one half of 1 percentage" challenge could really help us in the New Year! If you have already turned in your response, thank you! If not yet, please do.

### So What Else Can You Do?

- Do your best to give regularly and if you do miss a week, please try and make it up.
- Support our fund raisers especially the ongoing **Food Gift Coupons**.
- Support the **Christmas Bazaar** on December 7th!

**Make Giving Easy and Automatic.** Here are **two ways** you can do that:

1. **Your Bank** - You can set up a monthly cashier's check to be drawn on one of your accounts and mailed to the church. This is a recurring process so you don't have to worry about it! For example Wells Fargo **will help you set this up at no cost to you!** Contact your bank and they can help you set it up.
2. **Tithely** - Consider using the safe, secure, easy virtual method with the QR code with your smart phone. There are also buttons on our website and Facebook pages. Tithely can also set up a recurring, automatic monthly donation using one of your credit cards. There is a nominal fee with this.



**IMPORTANT: If you have set up automatic giving, PLEASE confirm that the funds are actually getting to the church!**

**New Heating Oil Season is here!** Check out our Mascot for our Heating Oil campaign, **Lu the Fire Fly** from Vacation Bible School! Lu is asking that our members do their best to contribute monthly a little extra using **the OIL envelopes you'll find at the BRIGHT YELLOW Heating Oil Campaign poster** board located in the Hospitality area.

**Thank you to all of you who give of your Time, Talents and Treasures!**

# BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

*a stewardship program for our congregation*



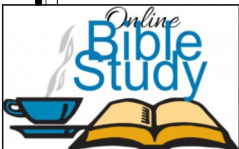
Thank you for providing your commitment to Immanuel for 2025. Every member has valuable contributions to make to the church – financial support AND volunteer efforts to maintain our congregation and service to the greater community. If you didn't have a chance to submit your commitment forms in November, please send them to the church as soon as possible. If you do not have the commitment forms, contact Joyce Morrison (610-506-5387 [jemorrison28@gmail.com](mailto:jemorrison28@gmail.com)) and we'll get the forms to you.

**Viola Mayberry, our church secretary for the past 20 years, has announced that she is ready to retire!** She will be working her usual schedule until December 16, then taking the last of her vacation days. Please join the Church Council in thanking her for her service! We all wish her a happy and healthy retirement – with lots of time for fun activities!



## Come Join Our Weekly "Virtual" Bible Study on Wednesday Evenings!

Our **Virtual Bible study** continues on **Wednesdays through December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and will resume after the New Year on January 8<sup>th</sup>**. All you need is your Bible and we'll provide the discussion questions when we "connect". If you would like a copy of the session *Study Guide* please go to the mailboxes in the rear of the Hospitality Area and on the left hand lower corner you'll find "Zoom Bible" with copies in a folder. Sessions are led by Karl McClellan and Fred Warner. They are fun, educational and thought provoking! Please join us if you can! Just go to our web site, [www.immanuelnorwood.org](http://www.immanuelnorwood.org), and click on the "Church Calendar" tab, then scroll to the **ZOOM LINK FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**. If you are unable to use the video link, you can use your phone to connect. **To use the dial-in option:** Simply dial **one** of the numbers below at the start of the event. You will then be asked to type in the meeting ID followed by the pound (#) key. You may be prompted to enter the meeting passcode as well followed by #.



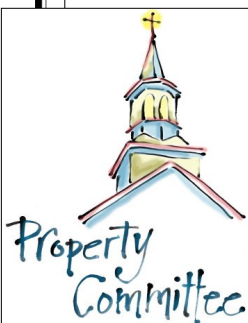
### Dial In Numbers:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 897 7827 9740

Passcode: 952485



Property made it through the summer lawn cutting season with the “HELP” of Karl McClellan. Now our attention moves to winter weather and the possibility of snow. We were very thankful that this past winter season we did not have to worry about clearing the sidewalks of snow. Property is asking for help with snow removal once the dreaded white stuff begins to fall and accumulate. Please touch base with Fred Warner if you are interested in helping with sidewalk clearing.

Everyone is aware of Immanuel’s heating oil cost. Help us conserve oil by not adjusting thermostats and keep doors closed eliminating drafts that may influence thermostats. Please consider donating to the Oil Fund. Envelopes can be found in the Hospitality Area.

**Property continues to need your help with replenishing our housekeeping supplies.** When you do your grocery shopping, please consider picking up an item or two. Items may be placed on the card table located in the Hospitality Area. We are always in need of building/maintenance supplies and very appreciative to the congregation for your continued donations. Below is a list of the items that we most often need to keep our supply cabinet full:

Paper Towels	Liquid Dishwashing Detergent	Window Cleaner
Liquid Hand Soap	Facial Tissue (Kleenex)	Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Furniture Polish	Pine-Sol	Toilet Paper
Trash Bags (33 to 45 gallon)		

**Church Secretary Needed.** With the retirement of our current secretary, Immanuel will be seeking a new secretary. At the time of printing, we hadn’t yet worked out all the details of a job posting, BUT we expect the position to continue to be 20 hours per week, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday. If you know of someone who might be interested, please have them contact Joyce Morrison (610-506-5387 or [jemorrison28@gmail.com](mailto:jemorrison28@gmail.com)). Please share this opportunity with others.





**Roof Repairs Update ~ WE DID IT!** Thanks to your generosity as of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November, we had enough donations come in to cover the final 2 phases of the Roof Repairs (#2 Flat roof maintenance and #3 Gutter repairs)! Our Property Committee working with the Contractor expects to have the repairs complete by the time you read this newsletter. You'll recall that we did complete phase #1 the Slate repairs earlier this year. We are doing our best to care for our Lord's house so that we may continue our Mission here in Norwood, Thanks to your support!



We appreciate all of you who give of your Time, Talents and Treasures!

Sincerely your Property & Resource Committees,  
 Fred Warner, Karl McClellan, Jeanne Warner & Sandy Hendrick



**Cars, Coffee & Christ Wrapped Up 2024 with our 4th Event, Best Yet!**



This Outreach event is a team effort with Immanuel, Norwood and St Matthew, Woodlyn. It is a gathering for "Cars, Coffee & Christ" that gives us a chance for fellowship, sharing stories, raising prayer concerns, enjoying snacks and giving back to the community. We held our 4<sup>th</sup> and final event for 2024 on November 2<sup>nd</sup> in St Matthew's parking lot. Weather was cool but beautiful! **We had the most cars yet (23 coming and going, 22 maximum at one time), plenty of people (about 40 including several walk ups) and several prayer requests,** which both churches added to our prayer lists for the next several weeks. We had plenty of coffee plus 5 different homemade goodies and some doughnuts one of the participants brought! Special thanks to our Deacon Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus once again for her Jewish Apple cake! Also, my sincere thanks to Harry Modesti of St Matthew for his cheesecake plus helping with set up & hosting! Check out the photos from the event. We'll be back, starting in the spring and aiming for an event every other month into the fall. Please check our web sites and bulletins for updates for events in 2025. We hope you might come out and join us!! See Karl McClellan ([krmcfamily@aol.com](mailto:krmcfamily@aol.com)) with any suggestions/questions you may have.



**Holidays are for Sharing!** Let's remember our neighbors as we prepare for Christmas. Please pick up some extra food items when you do your own shopping for our Little Food Pantry. You can purchase grocery gift cards in smaller denominations for our congregation to give to others, which allows those folks to select their favorite holiday foods.



Pantry donations can be placed directly into the Little Pantry or placed on the shelves just to the left as you enter the church from Chester Pike. (Food items in bags and boxes should be placed in the bin – saves them from the fall invasion of mice!) Grocery gift cards can be purchased from Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus and given to any Outreach Committee member. (Jean Crane, Colleen Kelly, Margaret (Pie) Fagan, Karl McClellan, Joyce Morrison)



**Half Century Fellowship Lunch Group** will not meet in the month of December. Pack a lunch and join us on the 3rd Thursday of January, the 16th, at noon for good company, conversation and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

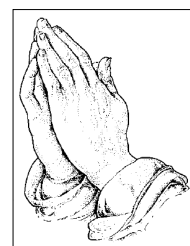


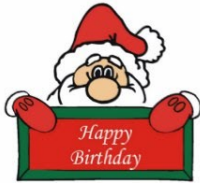
CONGREGATION STATISTICS

	Members Removed	Members Added	Avg. Weekly Attendance	Avg. YTD Attendance
Oct.	0	0	33	34

THE POWER OF PRAYER

- ♥ Amy Williams
- ♥ Eleanor Kephart
- ♥ Barb Calciano
- ♥ Marie Parnell
- ♥ Art Hunter
- ♥ Fred Dormann
- ♥ Steve King
- ♥ Steve
- ♥ Sylvia Hunsberger
- ♥ Pat Brolly
- ♥ The Pinder family
- ♥ The Bonner family
- ♥ Al & Nancy Mako
- ♥ Joan Wood
- ♥ Leslie Ellingsworth
- ♥ Kay Yates
- ♥ Frank Otto
- ♥ People battling cancer & their families.
- ♥ Peace around the world.





**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS BIRTHDAY**

**Carol Hendrickson** ~ December 28th

Please refer to your church directory for address information.

Our prayers include the following persons as they recall their **Baptism** in **December** and promises made to God and by God:

Deborah Leflar     Joanne Fitzpatrick

Karl McClellan



**Severe Weather Policy** ~ In the event of severe winter weather please call the church office at 610.586.5860 for a recorded announcement on the status of Sunday morning services. Closing announcement will be made no later than 6:30 AM to ensure ample time to plan your morning.

**Committee Chairs** ~ Reminder to have your **annual reports** in by the end of the year to the church office. Email is the most efficient and preferred method of communication if possible. Everyone's support and help is greatly appreciated.



**IMMANUEL CELEBRATES!**

**Baptism** ~ November 24, 2024 ~ **Sophie Adele Strehlau**

Daughter of Colleen & Matthew Strehlau  
Sponsors, Brenna Malloy & Brandon Strehlau

**Confirmation** ~ October 27, 2024 ~ **Alexis & Olivia Paglia**

We rejoice with the grandparents, parents, family & friends in these joyous celebration!



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

501 Chester Pike, Norwood, PA 19074

Phone: 610-586-5860

E-mail: Pastor: Immanuelnorwood@gmail.com

Secretary: Immanuel@verizon.net

The Rev. Scott R. Lee

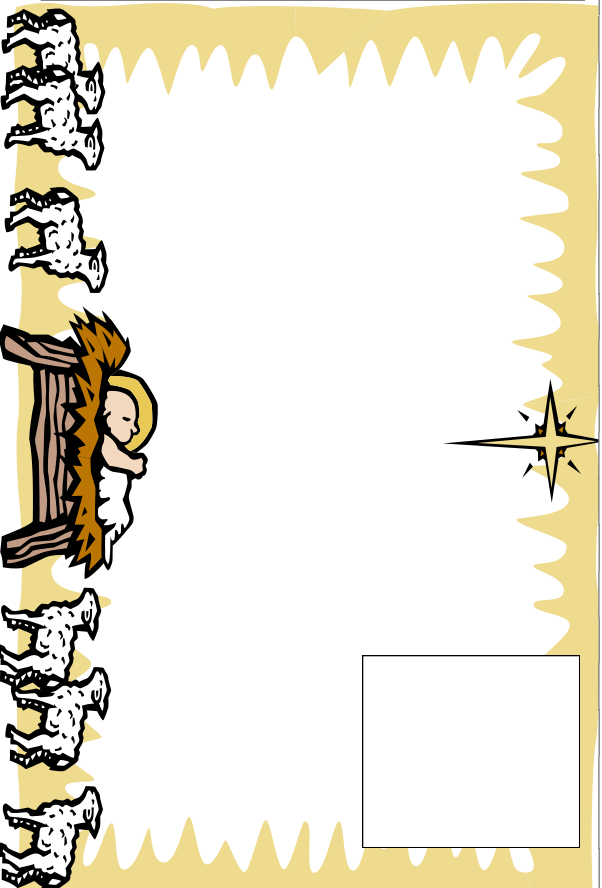
Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



We are a  
**RECONCILING in CHRIST**  
Congregation

**SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETINS**



**For Whom:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

- In Honor of
- In Memory of
- In Celebration of

**BULLETINS**

- In Honor of
- In Memory of
- In Celebration of

**DETAILS:**

- ANNIVERSARY
- BIRTHDAY
- BAPTISM
- GRADUATION
- LOVED ONES
- OTHER

**Prices and Ordering Information**

**Altar Flowers:** \$30.00

Contact Fran Fisher (610.586.3095)

**Bulletins:** \$20.00

Contact the Church Office for available dates and dedication.

Name of Sponsor(s): How it will appear in Service Bulletin

Envelope No:

Phone