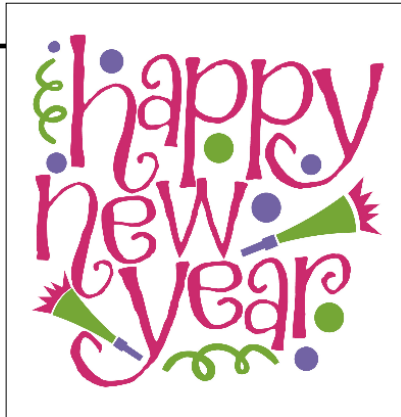


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2025



SHARE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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www.immanuelnorwood

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 11:00 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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The Calendar reflects **“Church”** events only. For information in regard to **“Use of Building”** by outside groups, please contact Fred Warner.

Call the church office or follow us on Facebook for the status of worship service during inclement weather.			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 8:30 AM Manger & Tree take down.
5 10:00 AM Education Hr 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg. Worship & Music Mtg.	6	7	8 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	9	10	11
12 10:00 AM Education Hr 12:00 PM Outreach Mtg.	13	14 5:30 PM Resource Mtg.	15 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	16 12:00 PM Half Century	17	18 1:00 PM Healing Service 
19 10:00 AM Education Hr 12:00 PM Council Mtg. 	20	21	22 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	23	24	25
26 10:00 AM Education Hr 12:00 PM Congregational Mtg. 	27	28	29 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	30	31	

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTOR'S PEN

There was a local congregation that built a new social hall. Before the building was finished, members of the congregation were invited to write scripture verses on the studs before the drywall went up. One person chose the shortest verse in the Bible: "Jesus wept." On the stud in the wall behind the men's room toilet is John 11:39 in the King James Version: "He stinketh."



We too have wept, as Jesus wept for Lazarus. It might surprise us a little that Jesus cried. Surely he knew about the resurrection of the dead. Surely Jesus knew his own power as the Lord and Giver of Life. However, in this particular moment Jesus seems overcome with grief. Death's sting hasn't been swallowed up in his Easter victory over the grave.

Lazarus's tomb could be a symbol for death and all the things of this world that "stinketh." The grave could represent depression, or addiction, or loneliness. Perhaps the tomb could be cancer, or a blot clot, or suicide. There are many things in this world that can cause us to despair and cry. Perhaps Jesus, in that instant, understood this. Jesus, God incarnate, the Word made flesh, came down from heaven to share our common lot. Our Lord experienced our pain and our suffering. Yes, he is the power to transform all of this into something new. He is our redemption, but he is also our Companion. He weeps our tears. He knows our pain, and he knows that sometimes things just plain stinketh! He does not stop there however. Into the darkest, deadest, most despairing of tombs in this world he stands firm at the entrance and yells: "Come out!" Yes Jesus knows our despair, but he is also ultimately our pathway out of despair into the abundance of life. Wherever forces of this world threaten to drain us of energy and all things that animate

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*



us, he comes to open the tomb of our despair and summon us out into the fresh air of a new beginning.

Now all that is left is for you to reflect and ask yourself: "What in my life truly stinketh?" Take a moment now and bring whatever that is to mind. It could be your grief. Whatever is causing you pain, bring it here to Jesus. Now once you have this in mind, listen to his voice saying: "Come out!" What does it look like to come out of that thing in your life that stinketh Are you being called to let something or someone go? Let Jesus lead you. Follow the sound of his voice calling you out of your tomb to live again. Now think of those bandages that Lazarus was bound so tight with. Jesus calls out yet again and says: "Unbind him." What does it look like in your life to be unbound and set free? Then Jesus says: "Give him something to eat." Where are you being nourished for this new life, this new beginning? What or who feeds you? Is it a hobby? Is it exercise? Is it prayer? Whatever it is, receive it.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Lee



Half Century Fellowship Lunch Group is back in January!

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!



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!



HELP YOUR CHURCH WHILE YOU EAT!!

WE SELL ACME/SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS!!!



AVAILABLE IN \$10 - \$100 DENOMINATIONS!!

FOR EVERY GIFT CARD WE SELL, **WE GET 5%!!**

Please see Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus on Sundays to purchase gift cards. Cash or checks are welcome!

PLEASE BUY THE GIFT CARDS AND HELP OUT IMMANUEL!



FUNDRAISER FOLLOW-UP ~ Thank you for supporting our Fund Raisers: Boscov's made \$85.00, Pampered Chef made just over \$153; Raise Right made \$283; Bazaar made \$2,000 and wreaths \$600. Without your support we would not been able to do this.

Manger Take Down. On Saturday January 4th we will take down our **Manger Scene** and also our **Christmas tree**. Gathering for snacks will be at 8:30 AM with the work starting at 9AM.

Thank you to anyone that can lend a hand!



Volunteers Needed!



Little Free Pantry ~ Have you noticed? It's WINTER! Please think about those without enough food to eat and place items in our pantry. Let's provide hearty, warm winter foods. We do need to adjust to the weather, so please, no glass containers that might freeze. If our pantry is full, items can be placed inside the Chester Pike door on the left. We don't want mice to ruin our groceries, so place bags and boxes in the plastic bins. You can bring donations on Sunday morning or the church secretary can buzz you in the door during office hours, 9:00 – 1:00 most weekdays, except holidays.

2025

.... HAPPY NEW YEAR

**IT'S A
NEW
YEAR!**

2025 is here! Start the New Year with a resolution to appreciate all the blessings you have received! We need to remember that everything we have comes from God's awesome generosity. Let us in 2025 show our generosity through what will we do with our **Time, Talents and Treasure** to allow Immanuel's Mission to continue! A **BIG Thank you** to the Outreach committee for the "*Because of God's Great Mercy*" Stewardship campaign. Now it is up to us.

What Else Can You Do?

- ◆ Follow through with your 2025 Stewardship commitments! (If you did not yet respond yet, please do.
- ◆ Attend and vote at the Annual meeting. Our 2025 Budget will be presented.
- ◆ Support all of our fund raisers especially the ongoing *Food Gift Coupons!*
- ◆ Don't forget our "PPP" loan (from the pandemic days) we still have payments of \$300.00 a month for another couple of months. **The expectation is we will pay this off in 2025.** Contributions toward this are greatly appreciated!

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.



Heating Oil Season is here! Please take time to meet our Mascot, **LU** from Vacation Bible School at the poster in the Hospitality area and while there please take an "OIL" envelope to contribute a little extra if you can.

"Thank you" to all of you who give of your Time, Talents and Treasures!
Wishing you all a Blessed New Year!

Sincerely, Your Resource Committee
Karl McClellan, Jeanne Warner, & Sandy Hendrick

BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY



a stewardship program for our congregation



Because of God's Great Mercy, Immanuel Lutheran Church is an ongoing community of caring Christians, seeking to increase our presence in our community while we continue to care for our own families. Your pledge of financial and volunteer support for 2025 enables our Church Council to plan for our future. **THANKYOU!**

If you haven't had a chance to complete your pledge, check the table in the hospitality area for the forms. You can hand the completed forms to any Outreach Committee or Church Council member.

2025 envelopes can be found on the table in the back of the church. To make other arrangements, or to pick up during the week, please call the office at 610.586.5860



JANUARY 26th

FOLLOWING THE

11:00 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE

(Severe weather date Feb. 9th)

Enjoy and Give Thanks for Immanuel Nativity Scene!



Some of our team from November 30th who helped with the manger.



Celebrating 73 years!

Our Nativity scene will celebrate its 73rd birthday this year! The first year the manger was displayed was 1951. It was an idea that was suggested by Immanuel's Sister Zedena and from there it became a project embraced by many in our congregation and people in the community.

- The lumber to build the manger came from the old Norwood railroad station.
- The painting of the figures was done by Mrs. Fred Hazel who was an accomplished artist of the day.
- The first year the scene had the baby Jesus, Mary, a chicken and a squirrel. Then over the next several years they added Joseph, the donkey, sheep, the angel and the window. (Sadly the original chicken and squirrel have escaped!).
- Due to the labors of love to mend and erect the manger it continues to bring the Christmas spirit to Norwood

So as you walk by this Christmas season please take a few minutes to pause and enjoy the scene. Say a little prayer of "Thanks" to those folks who, 73 years ago, had a dream and made our manger come to life! Also take time this Advent season to come and really look at our tree and all those decorations made by hand over the years.

It sure is amazing what committed Lutherans can accomplish! Speaking of what we can do when we work together, this year we combined efforts to put up the manger, the Christmas tree and decorate the church on Saturday November 30th. We had over 10 people involved! Fellowship and excellent team work resulted in a fun and productive day!

My "Thanks" to all those who helped with supplies, putting up the manger, the tree and decorating the church, including: Fred Warner, Judy & Bob Firkser, Pastor Lee, Kris McClellan, Jacob Evans, Mike Million, Johnny Law, Don Bissex, & Darlene McClellan.

We'll be taking the manger & tree down on January 4th, 2025 starting at 8:30 am for some breakfast goodies then start work at 9:00 am if you'd like to help out.

I wish a Merry Christmas
and Blessed New Year to all!!

Sincerely, Karl McClellan



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

Our **Virtual Bible study** will resume on **Wednesdays at 7:00 PM after the New Year on January 8th**. 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, 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



Visit our website: www.immanuelnorwood.org

Like us on Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood

Send us your email address:

secretary.immanuel@verizon.net

Church Office hours 9am-1pm

Answering machine: 610-586-5860

CRISIS PHONE LINE 855-889-7827

The holidays are full of emotion, many joys but many challenges for individuals and families. A phone help line is available from the Delaware County Crisis Connections Team. If you know a family with a holiday crisis...**please share!**

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - Dial 988 from any phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for free and confidential support.

Crisis Text Line - Text HOME to 741741 for 24/7 support with a crisis counselor via text message.





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

† Frederick Warner

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.
- He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their

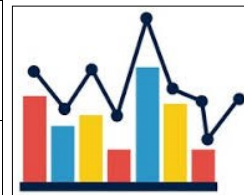
RESOLUTIONS FOR AVOIDING MISERY

Choose to love—rather than hate. ~ Choose to smile—rather than frown.
 Choose to build—rather than destroy. ~ Choose to persevere—rather than quit.
 Choose to praise—rather than gossip. ~ Choose to heal—rather than wound.
 Choose to give—rather than take. ~ Choose to act—rather than delay.



CONGREGATION STATISTICS

	Members Removed	Members Added	Avg. Weekly Attendance	Avg. YTD Attendance
Nov. 2024	0	1	43	34



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

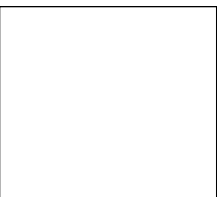
610.586-5860

Church Office Hours

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



We are a
RECONCILING in CHRIST
Congregation



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.

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

Envelope No:

Phone