



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

Norwood, PA ~ Phone: 610.586.5860

[www.immanuelnorwood.org](http://www.immanuelnorwood.org)

The People of Immanuel are Ministers of the Church

The Rev Scott R. Lee, Pastor

Kathleen Schneider, Director of Music

PRELUDE (*Prayerful time for reflection.*)

^MISSION STATEMENT:

**C: We of Immanuel are claimed, gathered, and sent by God to live Christ's example through worship, education, and service.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (local waters may be named).

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

## GATHERING HYMN

## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
- 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## ^KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

^HYMN OF PRAISE (*Verses 1&2*)

## God of Promise, Let These Signs of Grace

*Refrain*

God of prom - ise, let these signs of grace

kin - dle in our hearts a song of praise.

1 Life - giv - ing wa - ter                      soak - ing our dry - ness,  
 2 Word of pro - claim - ing,                    breath on the wa - ter,  
 3 Oil of a - noint - ing,                        fra - grant with pow - er,  
 4 Bright light of Eas - ter                    cleav - ing the dark - ness,  
 5 Robe of a - dop - tion                        grow - ing God's fam - 'ly,

drown - ing our sin each day, mak - ing us new—  
 plant - ing your prom - ise— the voice from a - bove:  
 nam - ing us ho - ly while hold - ing our pain—  
 shin - ing up - on and with - in us to - day—  
 wrap - ping our bro - ken - ness in the di - vine—

*Refrain*

mer - cy come stream - ing from you.  
 "This is my child, my be - loved."  
 mark of the life that we gain.  
 bea - con of hope on the way.  
 love be - come sym - bol and sign.

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

## ^PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Acts 2:42-47**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God, word of life: **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm****Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**SECOND READING****1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

<sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God, word of life: **Thanks be to God**

^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John , the 10<sup>h</sup> Chapter

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
SERMON

C: Praise to you, O Christ  
Pastor Lee

^HYMN

## Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

## ^APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the virgin Mary.**  
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**  
**He descended into hell.\***  
**On the third day he rose again.**  
**He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again 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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Kneeling as able.)*  
**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

## ^PEACE

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us share a sign of peace with one another, as you feel comfortable.

## OFFERING

*We join other Christians in joyfully responding to God's goodness, through your personal giving. The ushers will pass the offering plates during this time. For those who do not feel comfortable passing the plates, we ask that*

*you place your offering in the plates located at the front of the nave prior to the service, or after the service, in the plate on the table as you exit into the Hospitality area. Many people give electronically, and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their supportive giving.*

## ^OFFERTORY HYMN



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
 brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
 prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
 and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

**^LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

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# Lamb of God

## Your Only Son



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The table is ready, come and eat.

C: Amen

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *(By Intinction)*

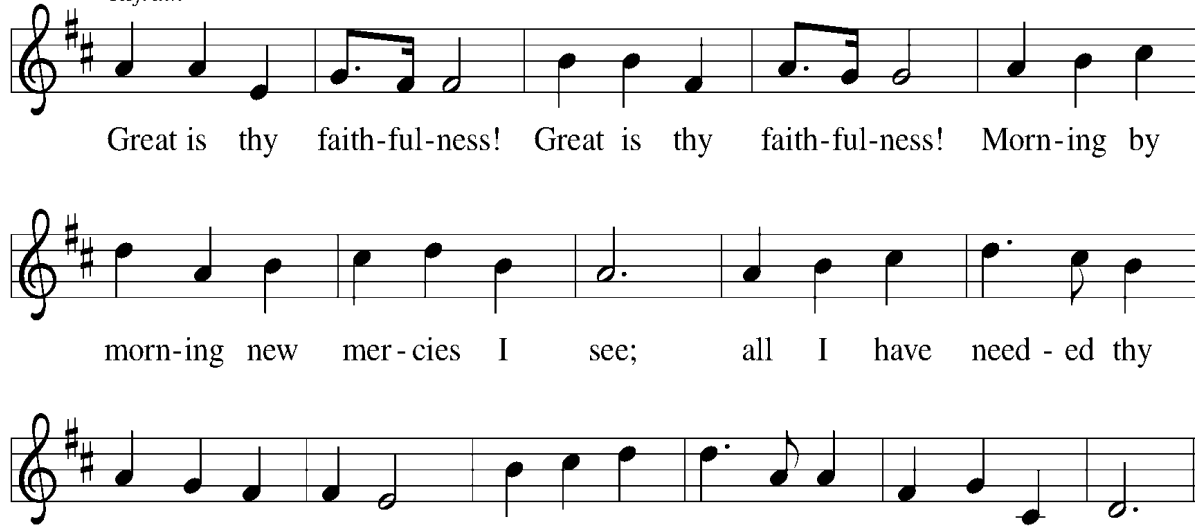
*All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of **Holy Communion**. After it is placed in your hand, dip your wafer in the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice). Sign a communion card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by  
morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy  
hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen**.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## ^HYMN

## Savior, like A Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;

In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray,  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

^DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



As a **Reconciling in Christ congregation**, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood, commits to celebrating the love of God with ALL people as we are all made in God's image. We are committed to racial equity in our congregation, community, and country. Whatever your abilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, race, culture, faith tradition or economic circumstance; whatever your past or present – you are welcome to share in God's love and our community.

**Welcome Visitors!** We are extremely glad you are with us today! It is a privilege to have you share our worship service. Please take a moment to fill out the Visitor Guest Book located at the top of the steps at our Chester Pike entrance. If you have any questions, please ask any of the members, we will be happy to help. Check out [www.immanuelnorwood.org](http://www.immanuelnorwood.org) or our Facebook page.



**Supporting IMMANUEL's Mission with Our Generosity.**

We have three easy and virtual ways for people to donate to IMMANUEL. You will see on our Website and on our Facebook page "links" which you can click and make a secure donation. And here is a **QR code** which you can scan with your smart phone. Thank You for your continued generous support!





**Ascension Day Service Thursday, May 14, 2026 6:30 pm**  
**Light Dinner 7:30 pm Worship Service Guest Preacher:**  
 Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood, Dean of United Lutheran  
 Seminary Reformation Lutheran Church, Media **102 W Rose**  
**Tree Rd, Media, PA 19063.** Hosted by the Delaware  
 Conference of the ELCA Southeastern PA Synod.

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

**Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.**

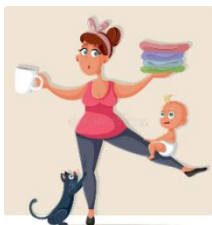
<b>SUNDAY</b>	Education Hour	10:00 AM
	Worship	11:00AM
	Vacation Bible School Meeting	12:00 PM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Bible Study at St. Matt's	9:00AM
	Bible Study ( <i>Zoom</i> )	7:00 PM

Date	Lector	Worship Assistant	Greeters	Acolytes
<b>Apr 26</b>		J. Kintsche	J. Crane	Harrison
<b>May 3</b>	D. McClellan	M. Horne-Onimus	C. Kelly	M.Cristinzio
<b>May 10</b>	V. Slotterback	K.McClellan	J. Morrison	M. Stewart
<b>May 17</b>	K. Dukes	J. Kintsche		



**March Income - \$11,084**  
**March Expenses - \$13,201**

**DIAKON (a social service of our local SEPA Synod) assists families** (referred by Children and Youth Services) in providing adequate care for their children. They also facilitate the reunification of families when children return from foster care. The Outreach Committee has provided a bin in the hospitality area for donations to their work. Donations of new or very gently used baby and children's clothing and baby supplies (but not diapers, they have a source for that) would be gratefully accepted.



Please join us on Mother's Day, **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, after services, as we celebrate our mothers and mother figures with refreshments, sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee.



**Virtual Bible Study.** Bible study is held from **7:00 – 8:00 pm on Wednesday nights**. All you need is your Bible, and we will provide the discussion questions when we connect. Sessions are led by Karl McClellan and Fred Warner. Please join us if you can, by

computer or by audio on your phone. The zoom link is on our website, phone connection by +1 646 931 3860 or +1 929 205 6099. Meeting ID:897 7827 9740 Passcode: 952485.

## **AC for Sanctuary Repair Approved and HVAC Project Starts!**

Council has approved an HVAC Project to upgrade the church's AC and begin investigating the replacement of our boilers. Work will begin after Easter. We'll be funding this effort with some of our investment funds and a loan from ELCA's Mission Investment Fund. Check out the display in the Hospitality area to see how you can help. See Karl McClellan or Fred Warner for more details. Thank you for your support!



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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be here before we know it!! August 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00AM-11:30AM. You can be a part of the excitement. We do need more helpers to make this year a success. This year's program is "Snowball Mountain Challenge". "Ollie" will lead us through the week. If your able to help this year, please see Jeanne Warner.



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out

### ***Pentecost Geraniums!***



The red geranium orders will be taken until **May 10th, 2026, price TBA**. The flowers will be available for pick up in church on Pentecost, **May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Please see Jean Crane with questions or orders.

**TEE SHIRTS!** It's time to order new tee shirts for us to share our loyalty to our congregation and to identify us as members for public events! The tee shirts will be available in unisex sizes from **extra small to Triple X Large**. They will be bright red (like the typical doors of a Lutheran Church) with white lettering and the Reconciling in Christ full color logo on the left sleeve. Cost will be **\$18 per shirt**, and orders will be due ***no later than May 31***. We expect to have the new shirts in time for the Norwood 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. There are forms on the hospitality table to place your orders. **Payment will be collected upon delivery in June.**



## LGBTQ PARADE



Immanuel will be supporting the **Media LGBTQ+ Pride Parade: June 6 from 12 – 2**. At this time, we expect to support the parade from the sidelines while displaying our Immanuel parade banner and wearing our Immanuel tee shirts. Last year we heard from several people that they would love to support Immanuel’s participation, but walking wasn’t an option for them. Check the June newsletter – we’ll share details of exactly where we will set up to support the marchers.