21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
Norwood, PA ~ Phone: 610.586.5860
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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

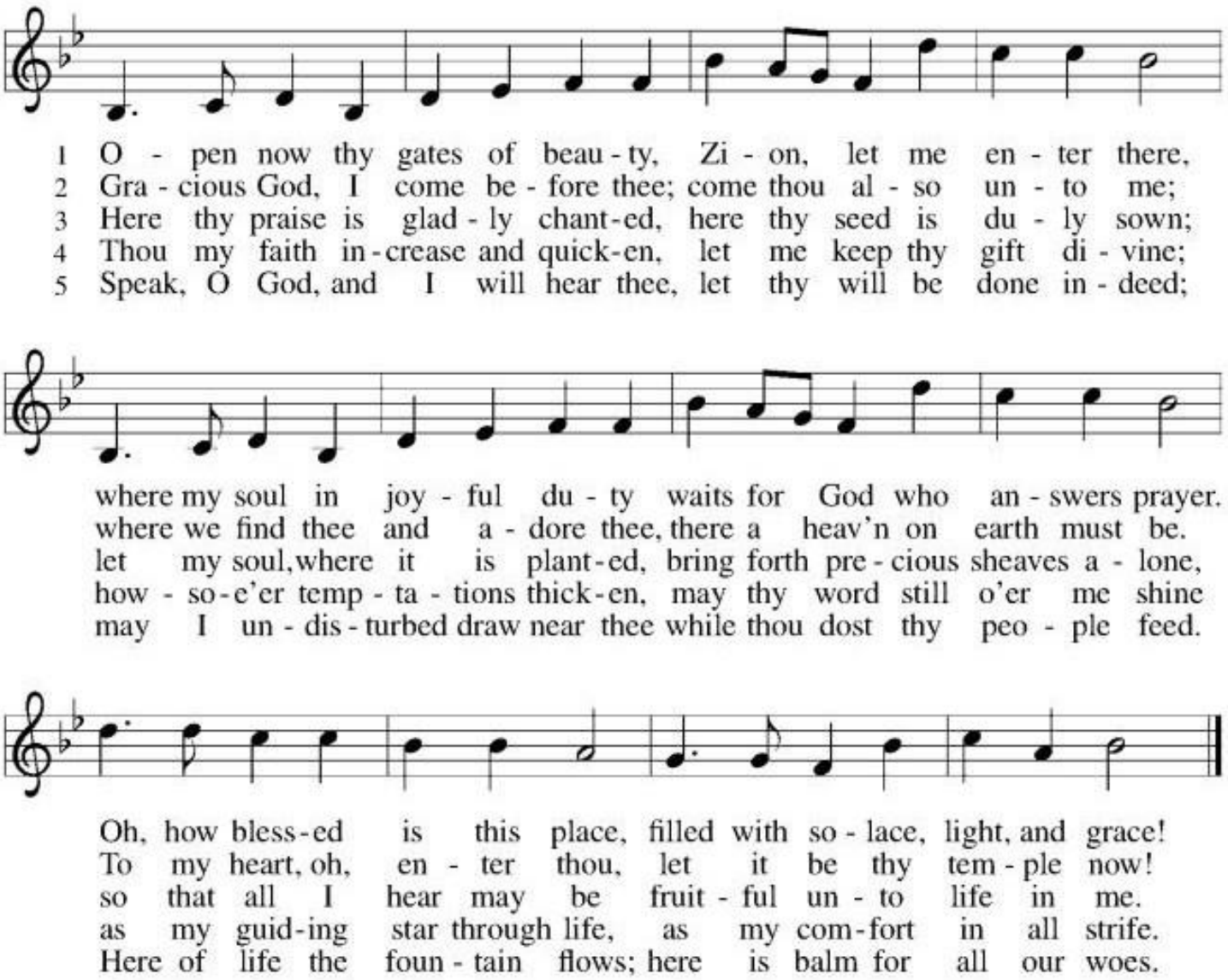
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

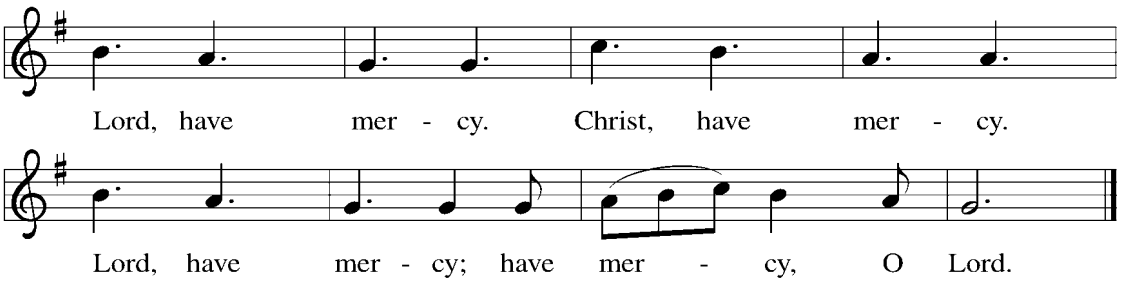
Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

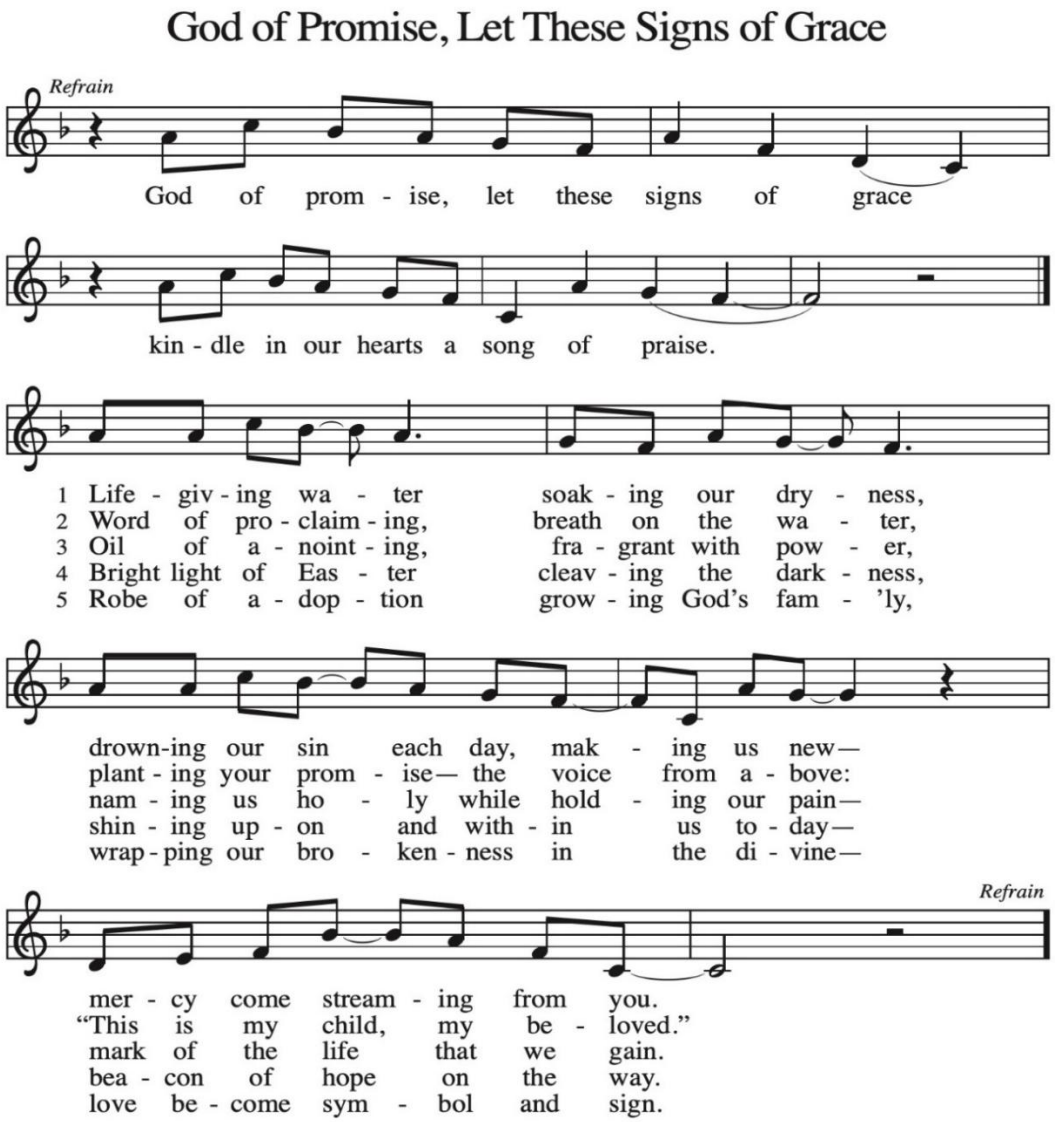
GATHERING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

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



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

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

^PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

[1] Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have
grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to
open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: [2] I will go
before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of
bronze and cut through the bars of iron; [3] I will give you the treasures of
darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is
I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. [4] For the sake of
my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give
you a title, though you do not know me. [5] I am the Lord, and there is no
other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me,
[6] so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that
there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. [7] I form
light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all
these things.

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

Psalm **Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]**

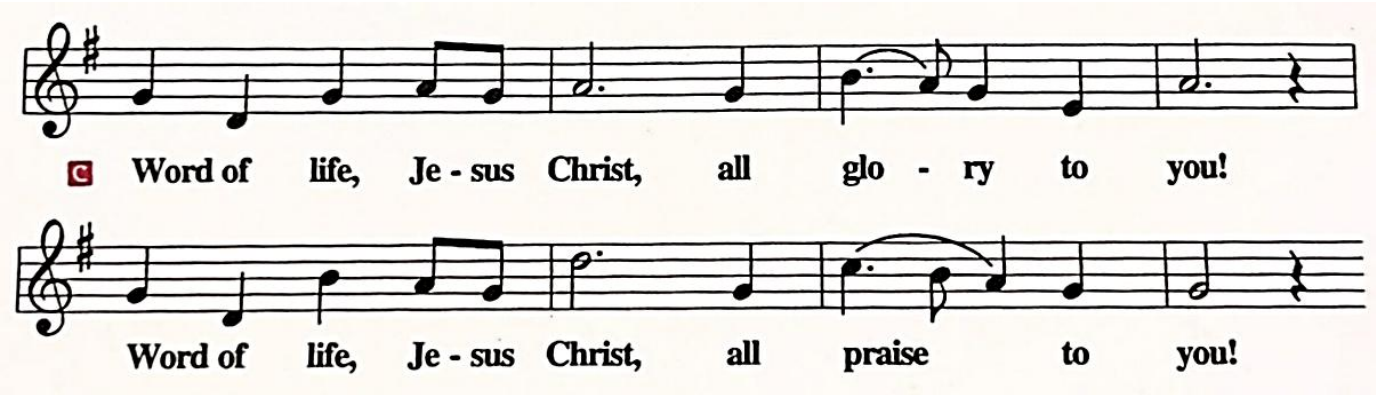
1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
3 Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
6 Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.
9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."
11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.
13 You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. [2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd Chapter
C: Glory to you, O Lord

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

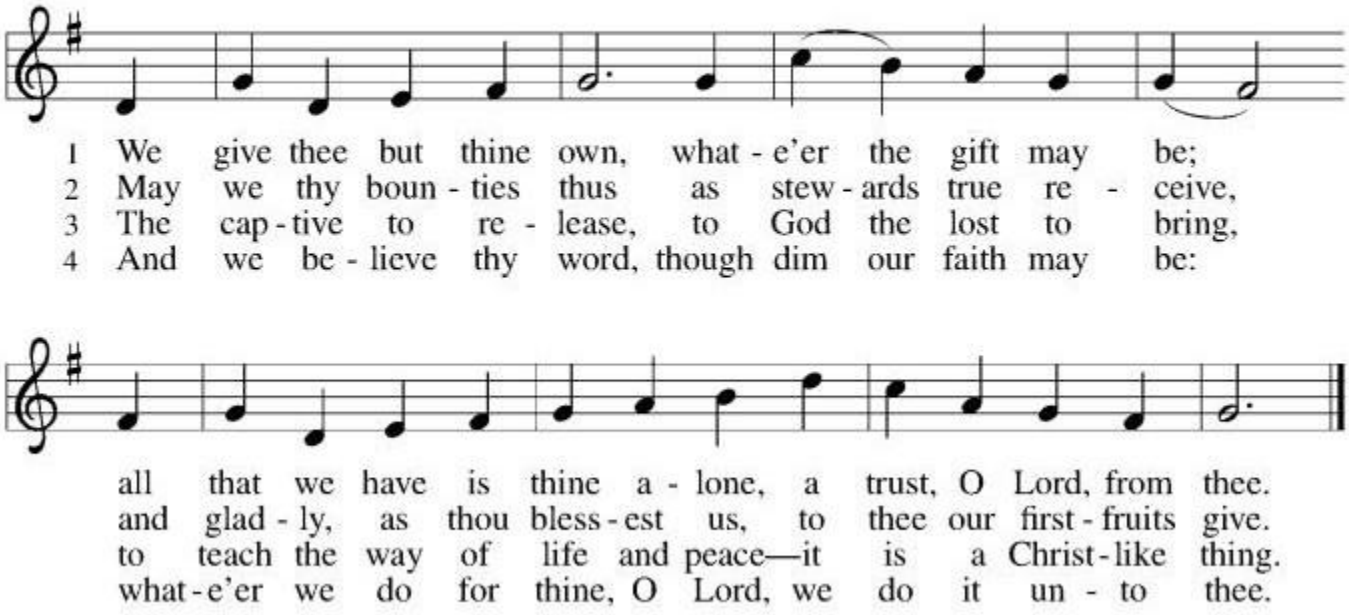
15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So
they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying,
"Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in
accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not
regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to
pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said,
"Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin
used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to
them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's."
Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are
Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this,
they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON Pastor Lee

^HYMN

We Give Thee but Thine Own



^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.

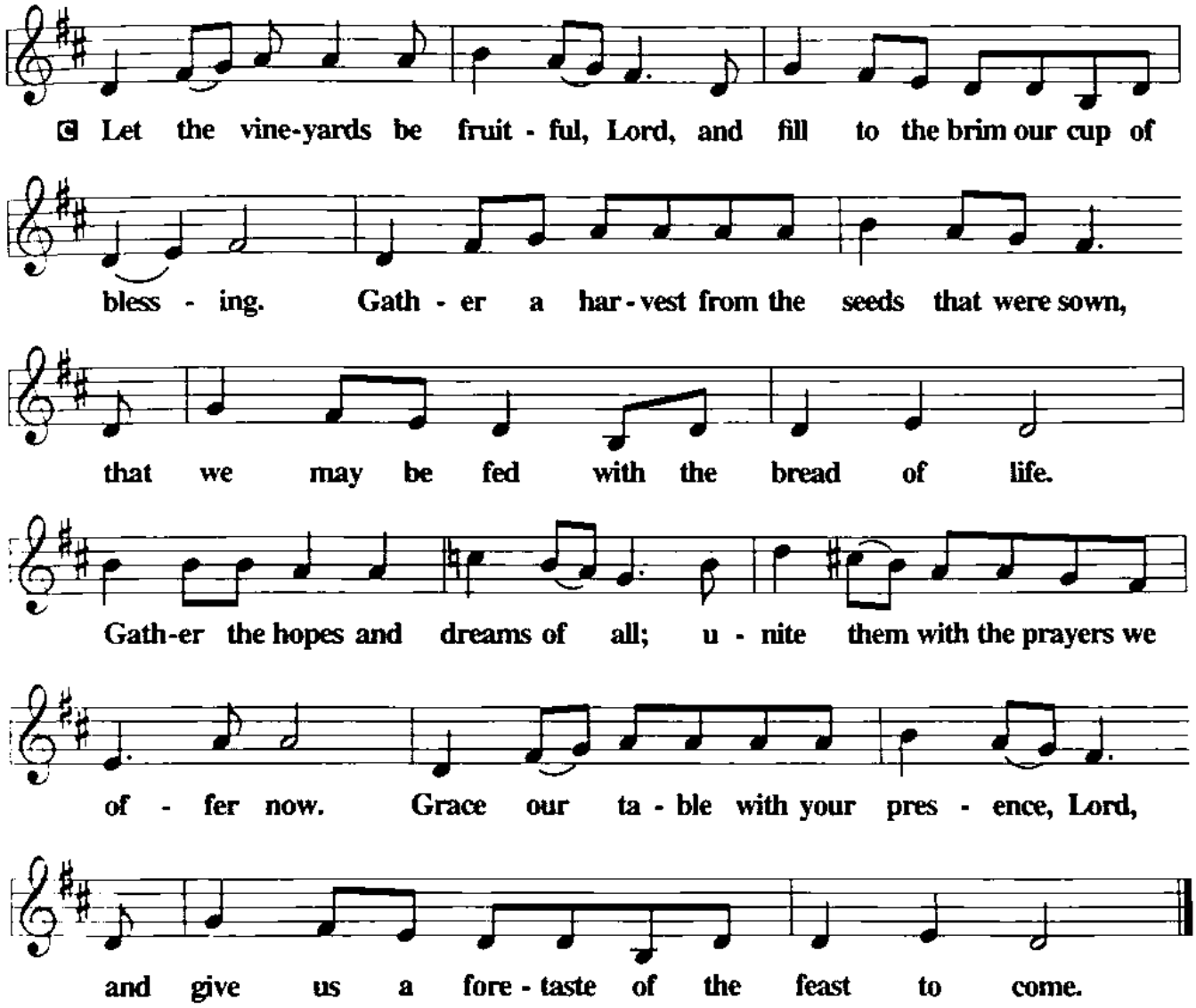
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,

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.)*
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

^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.

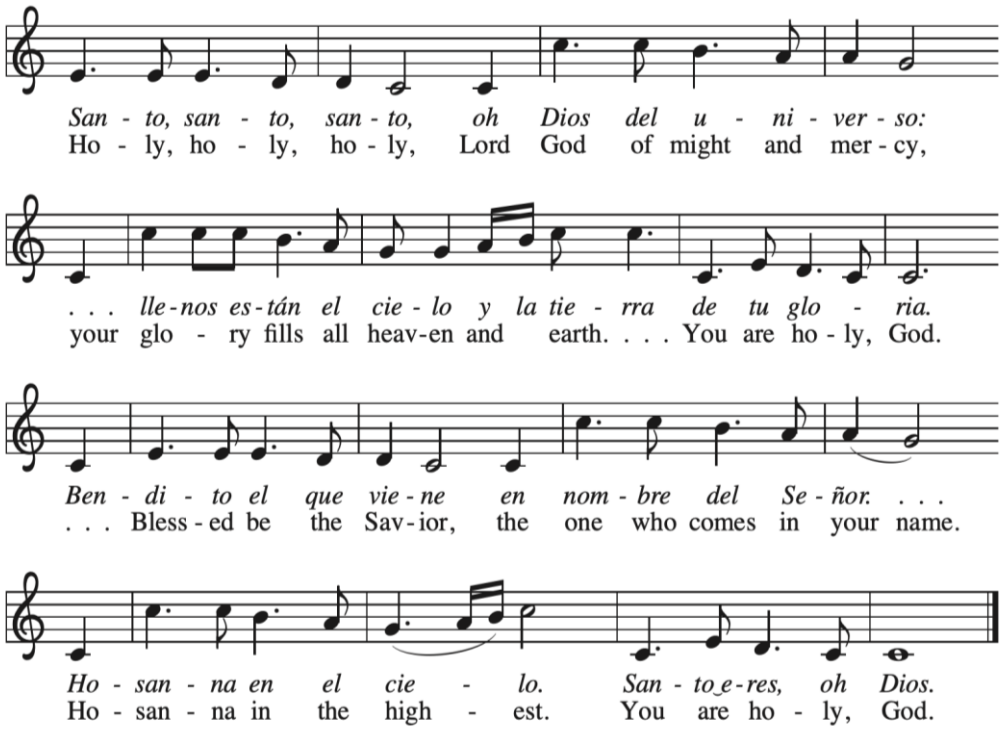
^OFFERTORY HYMN

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

+HOLY COMMUNION+

^GREAT THANKSGIVING

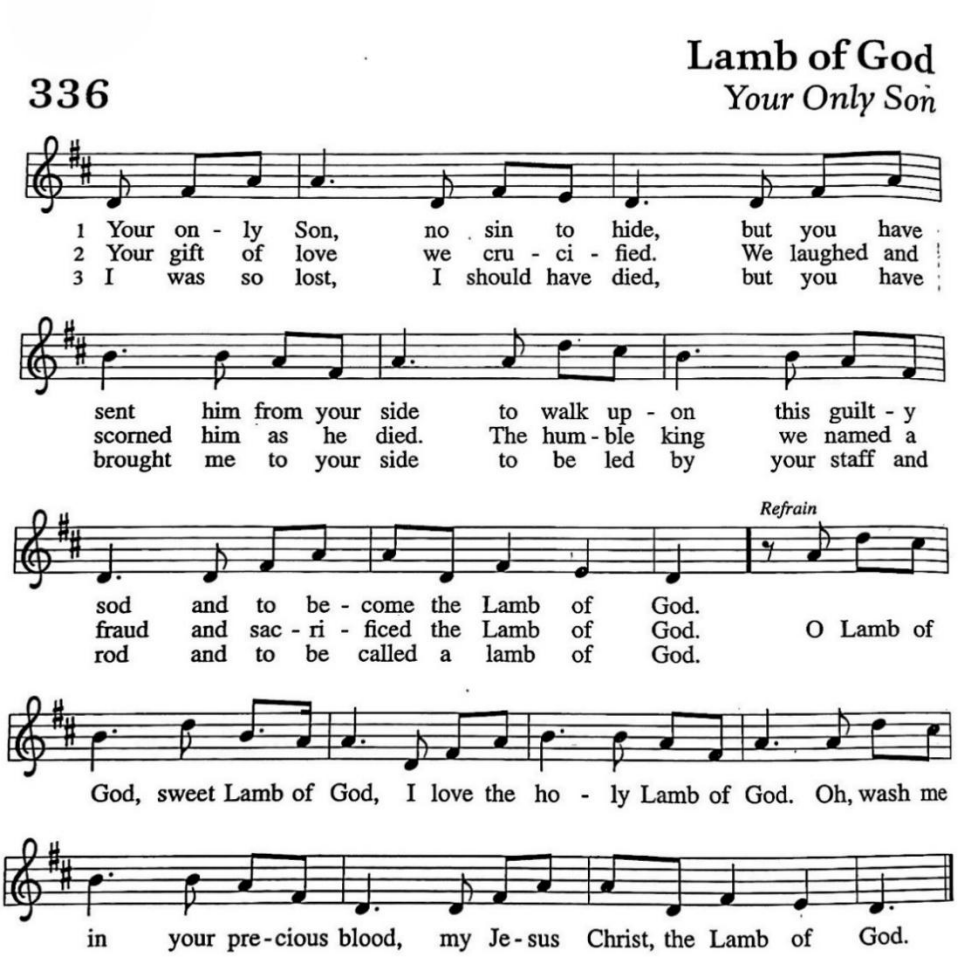
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
P: It is indeed right and salutary……we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy
Santo, santo, santo

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *In the night he was betrayed……*

^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.

(*first verse only)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The table is ready, come and eat.

C: Amen

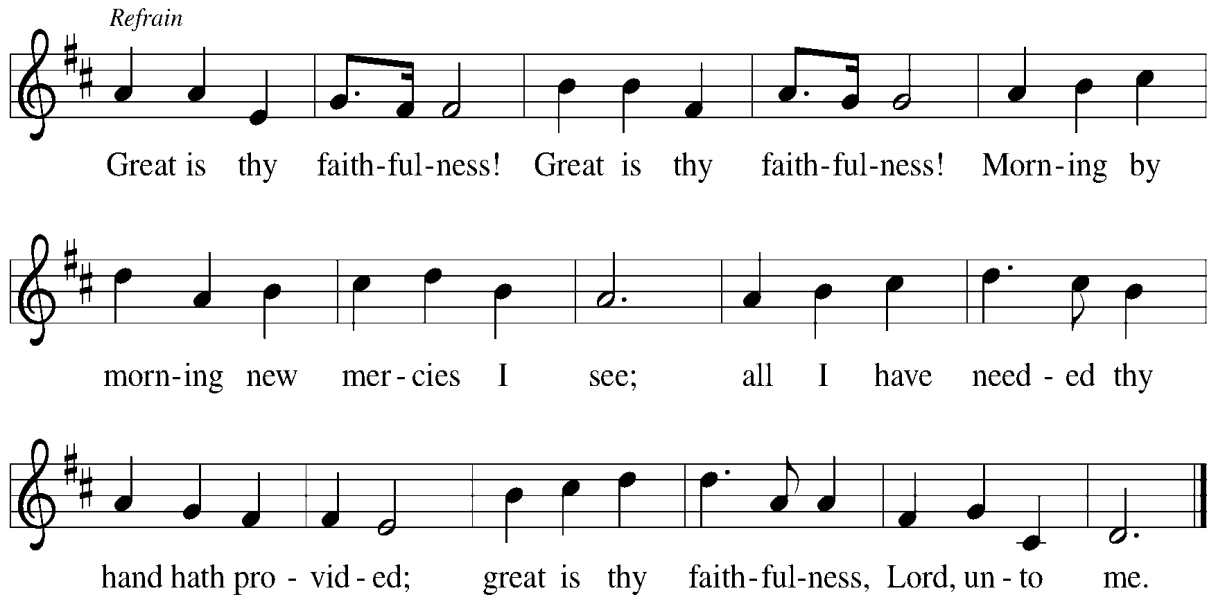
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *(By Intinction)*

All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of Holy Communion. After the wafer is placed in your hand, dip your wafer in the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice). If you wish not to come forward, sit in your seat and communion will be brought to you. 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



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

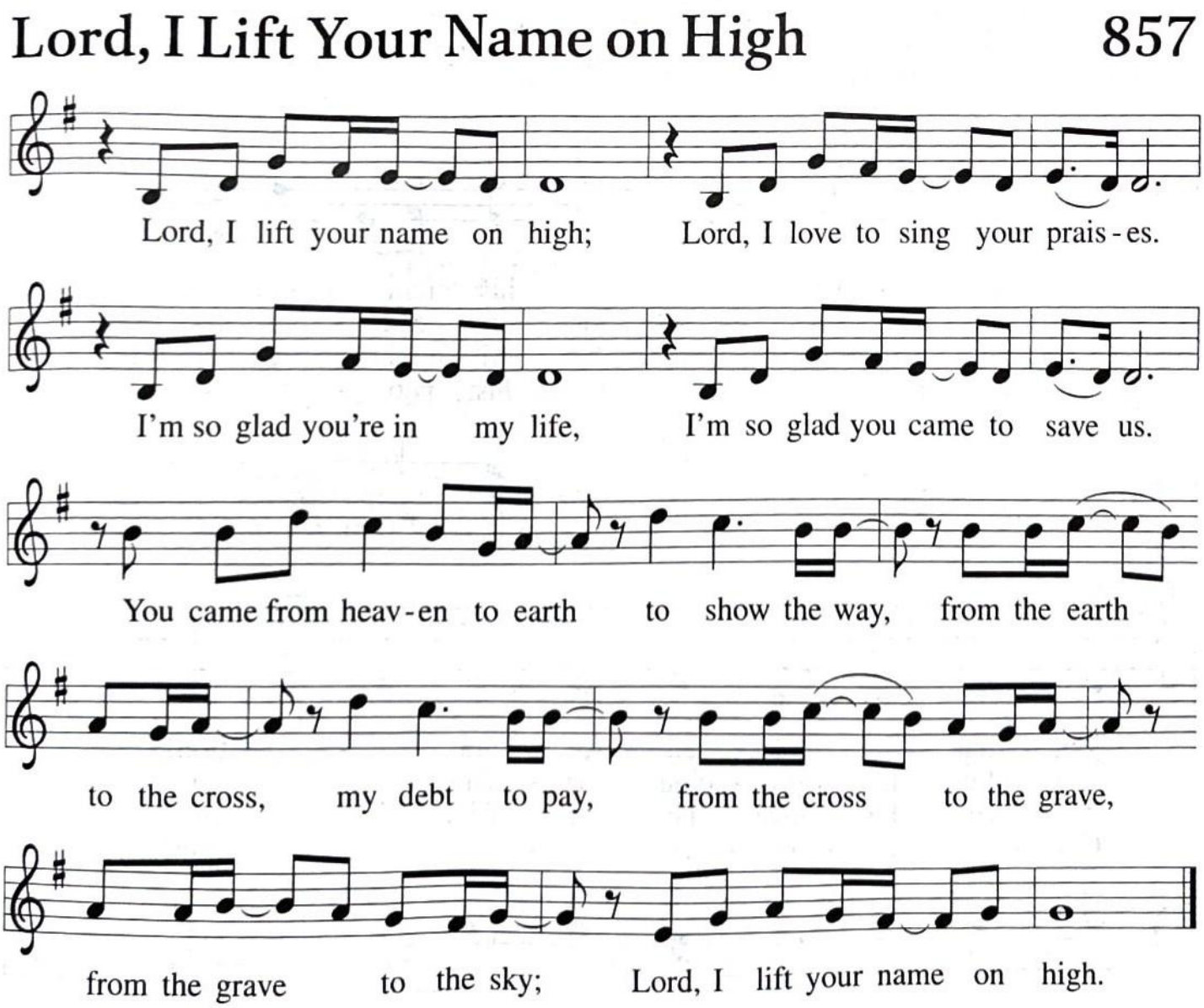
Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen**.
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever .**Amen.**

^HYMN



^DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

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 or our Facebook page.

Supporting IMMANUEL's Mission with Our Generosity. We have three easy & 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!

SPECIAL NOTE: If you attend church and are not able to come forward for communion for any reason, and you still wish to receive, Pastor will bring communion to you. Please speak with him for arrangements.

Social Ministry is meeting on Thursday nights at 6 pm to make crafts. All are welcome and we need your help.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.

SUNDAY	Education Hour	10:00AM
	Worship	11:00AM
	Council Meeting	12:00PM
WEDNESDAY	In Person Bible Study @ St. Matt's	9:30AM
	Zoom Bible Study	7:00PM

Date	Lector	Worship Assistant	Greeters	Acolytes
Oct 18		J. Kintsche	K. McClellan	E.Enriquez
Oct 25		K. McClellan	J.Crane	

September Income - $10,077
September Expenses - $10,995

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.

HVAC Phase #2 Loan Approved!

Thanks to all who voted at the special Congregational Meeting on 9/13/26. The motion was unanimously approved to apply for a loan from ELCA's Credit Union of up to $60,000 in order to begin phase #2, replacing our boilers and converting to gas. Please see the display in the hospitality area for more information and how you can help. Continued contributions for our project are greatly appreciated! See Karl McClellan or Fred Warner for even more details. Thank you for your continued support!

RaiseRight™ Ready to start your Christmas shopping? Maybe stock up on restaurants for a night out. 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. Fill out form, make your check payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and hand in to Jeanne Warner or the office. Dates on which orders will be sent in for purchase will be* ***Oct 18****,* ***Nov 15,*** *and* ***Dec 6****.* Gift cards usually come in within a week of ordering. Don't see a store you need, you can go online at www.raiseright.com and see if it is available and add it to your list or ask Jeanne W. and she will check.

Boscov's shopping event! 25% off lowest sale price on Wednesday October 21, 2026, shopping hours 8AM – 11PM in store AND online. Immanuel receives $5.00 for each pass purchased! Please contact Mary Lyn at (610)888-2579 for details.

October is Minister Appreciation Month

We all forget to say "Thank You" to folks who serve us as part of their work responsibilities. Pastor Lee has been serving Immanuel for about ten years. It would be lovely if each member could thank Pastor this month – a few words as you shake hands or a card or note would be appreciated.

Reformation Sunday is **October 25th**. We will have our annual Reformation Breakfast during the service. A sign up sheet will be available in the hospitality area at the back of the church. We hope you plan to attend this annual event that features great food!

CARS, COFFEE & CHRIST

HOSTS: Immanuel, Norwood and St. Matthew, Woodlyn
Lutheran Churches in St. Matthew's Parking Lot

SATURDAY from 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
October 24, 2026

BRING SOMETHING TO SHOW, OR JUST COME FOR THE COFFEE!

GPS: 160 Fairview Road, Woodlyn, Pa. 19094

For more information - Karl McClellan
krmcfamily@aol.com
610-761-4804

Like us on facebook.

www.Immanuelnorwood.org
www.stmatthewlutheranwoodlyn.org

Veteran Recognition On November 8th, we will recognize the military members of our congregation active, reserved and retired. If you have served, please let Pastor know so that you can be recognized. The names will be read during the service. Please join us so that we can honor and appreciate military members of our church family.

Trunk or Treat!

Sunday, October 25th beginning at 11:00AM at **Holy Spirit Lutheran Church 2545 Franklin Ave. Secane, PA 19018 (*back parking lot)***. If you wish to decorate your car and hand out candy please email the church at: holyspiritevents2545@gmail.com

Donations of non perishable food for a pantry are appreciated as well.