

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

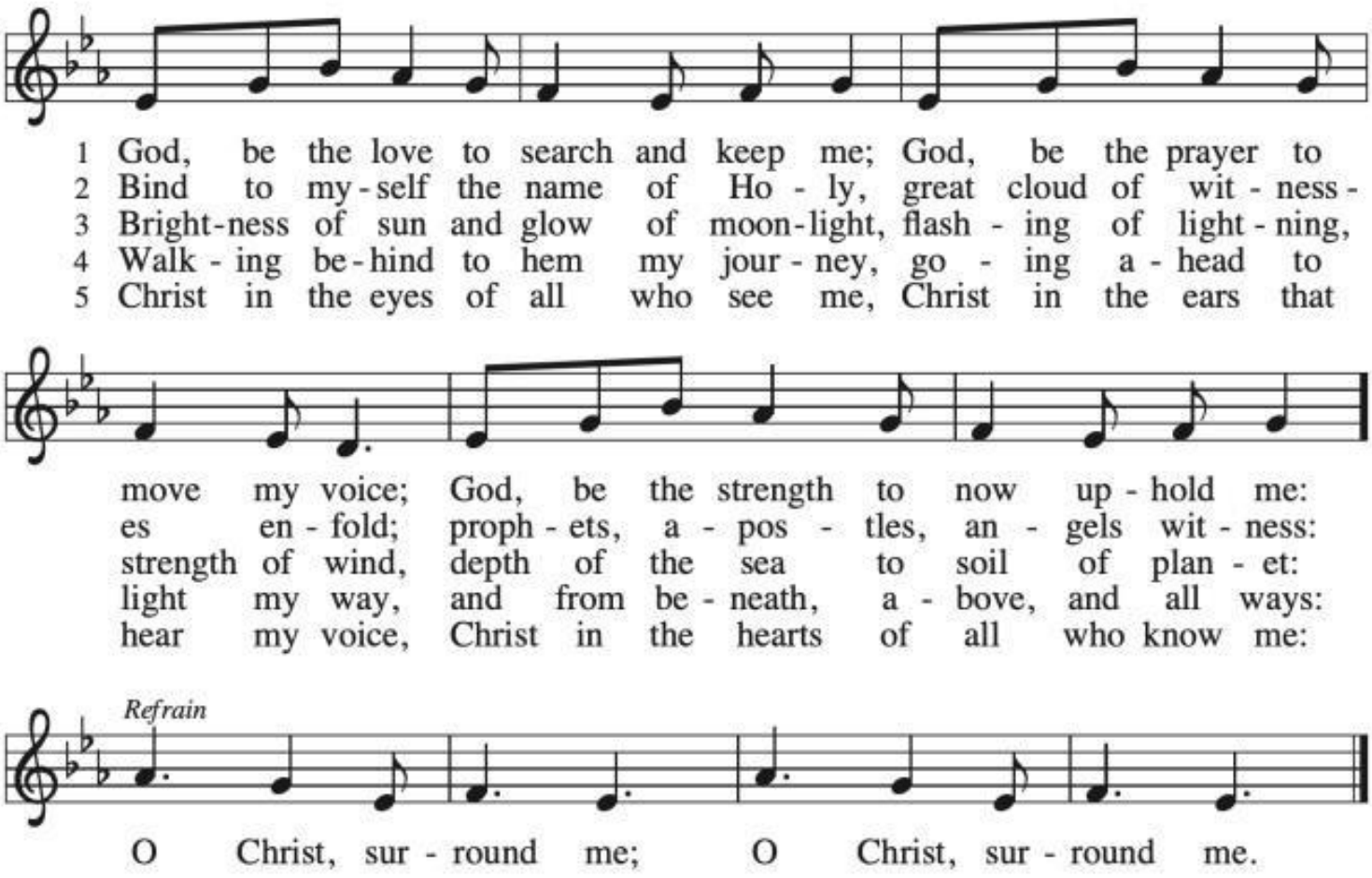
Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

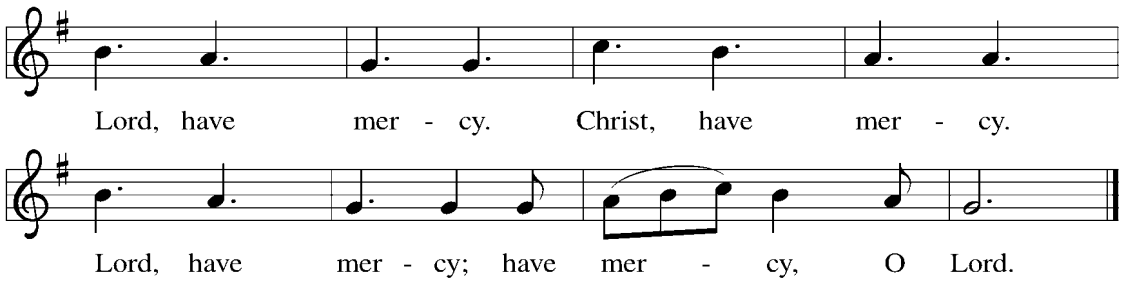
God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



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

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The
Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.12 At that time
I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle
like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do
good, nor will he do harm. 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their
houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.14 The
great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day
of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day
of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a
day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of
trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out
like dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will
be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his
passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will
make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Psalm Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, “Turn back, O children of earth.”
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**
5 you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
7 For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
11 Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 **So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ’s return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do
not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very
well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When
they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come
upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be
no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day

to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th Chapter
C: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents

went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

SERMON Pastor Lee

^HYMN

Lord of Light



^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.)*
God, in your mercy, **hear 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



OFFERING PRAYER

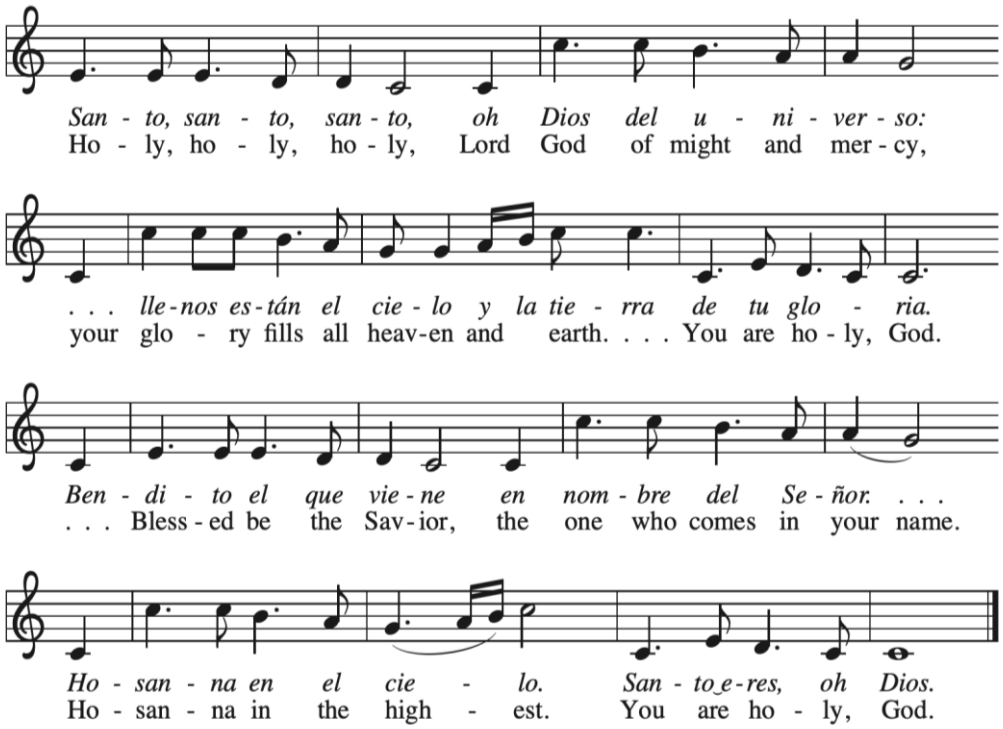
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

+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)*



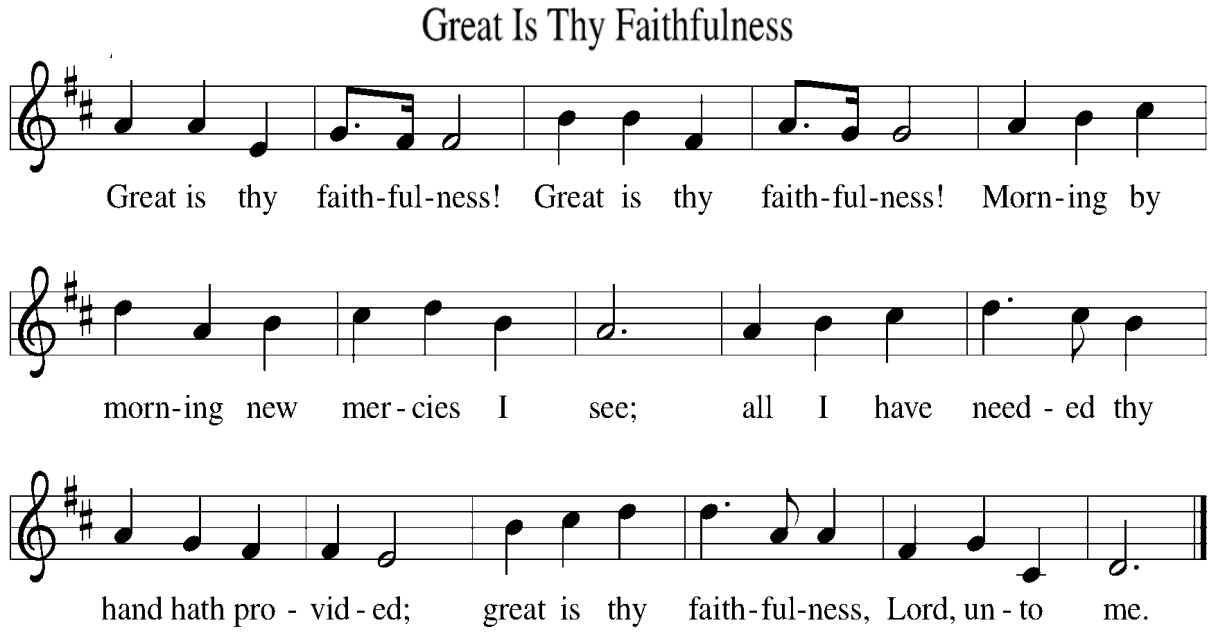
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
Amen.

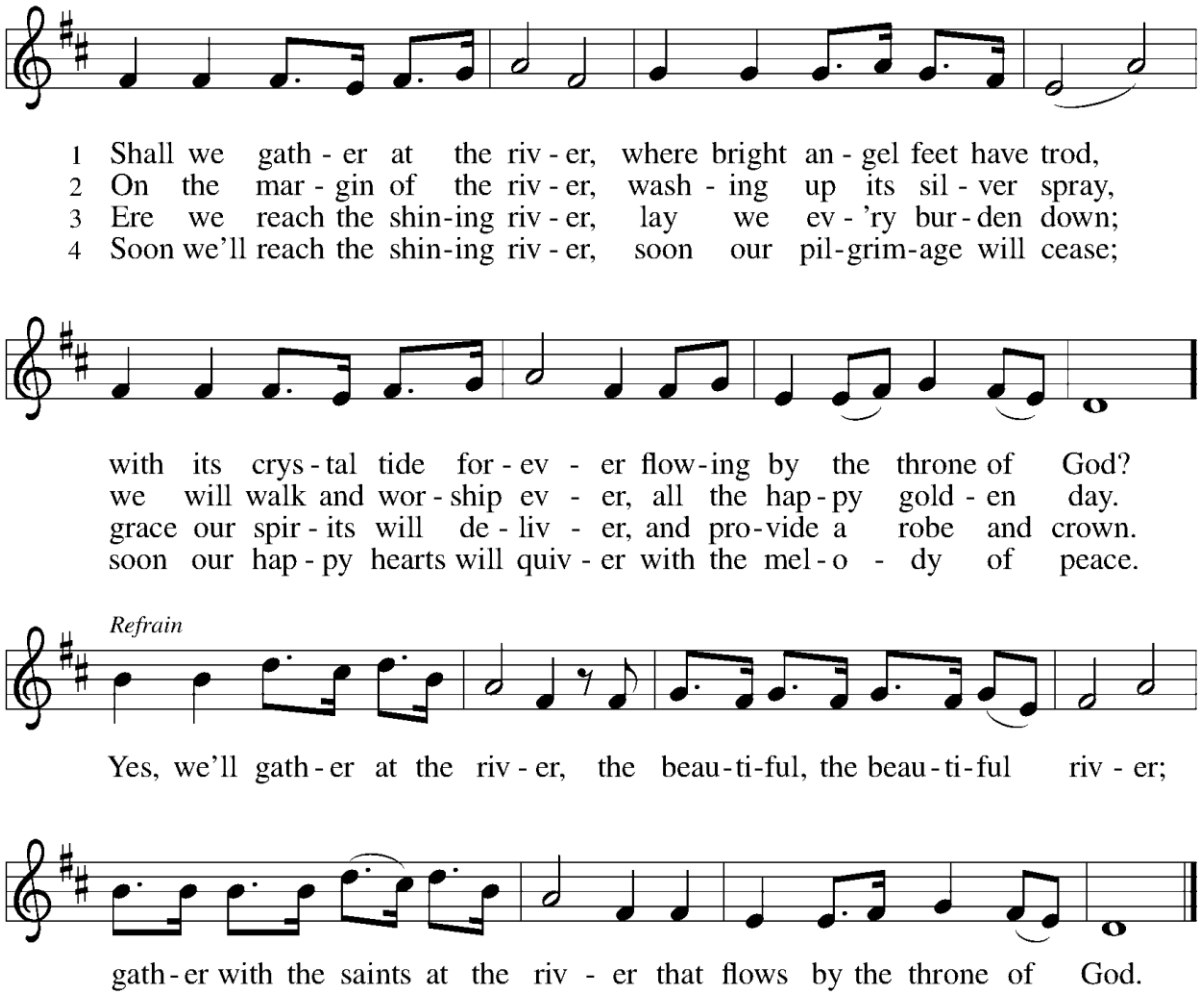
ANNOUNCEMENTS

^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
Amen.

^HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River



^DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
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.

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
Nov 15		M. Horne-Onimus	K. McClellan	M. Cristinzio
Nov 27		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!

Stewardship Week 3: <u>Fulfilling God's Purpose!</u>

This week's theme is "Living as Servants." Just as Jesus came not to be served but to serve, we are to serve. Heartfelt service unto the Lord is an integral part of our stewardship. Paul exhorts us, *"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men"* (Ephesians 6:7). Peter wrote, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10). We **fulfill God's purpose** as we use opportunities to serve. As our hearts and minds are enlightened through the hearing of the Word and participation in the Sacraments, the Holy Spirit transforms us into servants who willingly serve the Lord by serving others.

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. *<u>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 **Nov 15,** and **Dec 6**.</u>* 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.



We will be ordering **Poinsettia Plants** to adorn our Altar area at Christmas. If you would like to place a plant(s) in the Sanctuary, please see one of the Altar Guild members following Sunday service beginning Sunday **November 8th through Sunday, November 29th.** 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.



Christmas is coming! ***Our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Dec. 5!*** Mark your calendars now. To prepare for the event, Social Ministry is looking for helpers. It's a wonderful opportunity to socialize with your fellow members. ***When you come for the evening activities, the Chester Pike door will be unlocked.*** If you don't know where the craft room is located, call Mary Lyn at 610-888-2579. She'll send someone to guide you to the craft room in the basement of the education wing.

Strombolis: Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the kitchen. Our experienced cooks will walk you through the steps!





SHARE CHRISTMAS LOVE WITH FAIR ACRES RESIDENTS

Beth Funk, of the Outreach Committee, is coordinating our participation in the ***Giving Tree program at Fair Acres***. She has received some resident gift requests, **valued at $25 or less**. If you would like to provide a gift, see her on Sunday morning or call her at 610-521-3051.

Help with Immanuel's Manger and Church Decorating

Our Nativity scene marks her 75th birthday! SET UP DAY will be **NOVEMBER 28th** starting at **8:30 AM** with breakfast snacks downstairs and work beginning at **9AM**. We will also put up the Christmas tree and decorate the sanctuary. We should be done around **11 AM**, provided we get plenty of helpers. If you're interested in helping, let me know. Early Christmas Blessings to All! Sincerely, Karl McClellan



Pulpit Swap! *Sunday, November 22nd*! Pastor Drummond from Holy Spirit will preach the 9:00AM service at St. Matthews, and the 11:00AM service here, at Immanuel Lutheran and Pastor Lee will preach at the 10:15AM service at Holy Spirit Lutheran in Secane.

