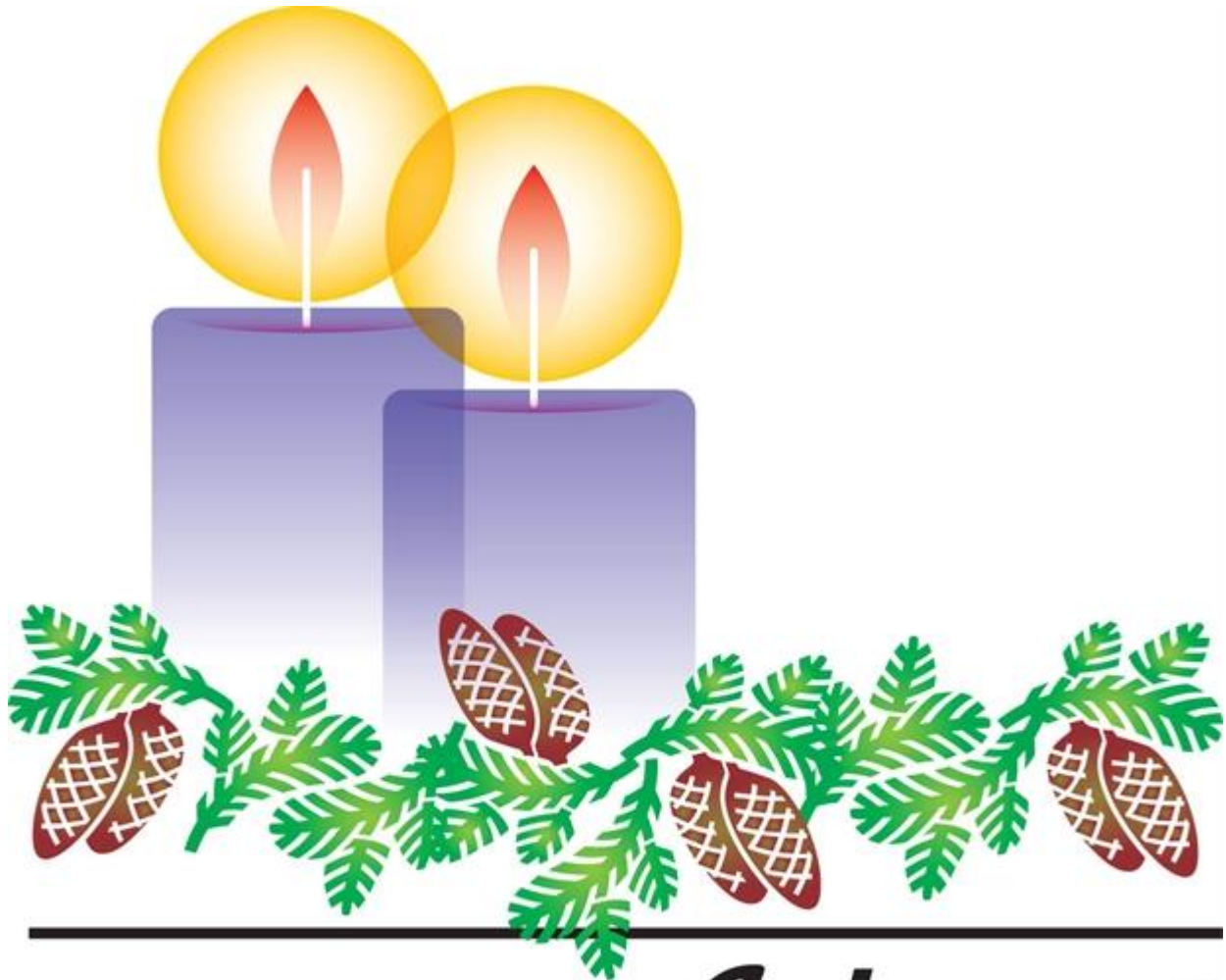


# Flames for the Faithful

~The Bethlehem Candle~



---

SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

---

December 4, 2022

**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

***Please pick up your communion card and Fellowship cup on the way into the Sanctuary for Holy Communion.***

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

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.  
**Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination. (Kneeling as able.)*

God of new beginnings, **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on **✝** Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

## ^OPENING HYMN

## Come Now, O Prince of Peace

*Ososǒ, Ososǒ*

*O - so - sǒ o - so - sǒ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm*

- 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
- 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
- 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
- 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sǒ.*

- Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

**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.

^LIGHTING TWO CANDLES (*Sing Melody: Away in a Manger*)

**In darkness enshrouded, the world waits for light**

**To shatter the shadowy darkness of night.**

**To greenery circled, the faithful draw near**

**And longingly listen, God's message to hear.**

**L** A voice cries, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord."

**C** **The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

**L** Be ready always, with your lamps lit and your hearts prepared.

**C** **From Bethlehem shall he come forth who shall feed his flock in the strength of the Lord.**

L Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you.

*(Sing Melody: Away in a Manger)*

**Two flames, soft and yellow like straw, light as down,  
Prepared in a manger in Bethlehem town,  
Now wait for a baby, the King of the earth.  
Our Savior is coming! Prepare for his birth!**

L Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

C **For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.**

L But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

C **Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.**

L Be ready always, with your lamps lit and your hearts prepared.

*(Sing Melody: Away in a Manger)*

**Oh, keep us, Lord Jesus, in your mighty care  
As for your arrival your people prepare.  
The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,  
That hearts of all people in faith may ignite.**

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

#### ^PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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

Micah 5:2-5a

*From Bethlehem shall Israel's ruler come*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

L Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

**C So we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed.**

L You will do well to be attentive to this, as to a lamp shining in a dark place,

**C until the day dawns and the daystar rises in our hearts.**

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

PSALM 24 (*Sing Melody: From Heaven Above*)

**C Lift up your heads, O ancient gates! Behold, the King of glory waits!**

L Who is the King of glory?

**C The Lord who comes in victory--The King of glory, it is he!**

L The Lord of hosts is the King of glory!

**C Lift up your heads, O ancient gates! Behold, the King of glory waits!**

L Who is the King of glory?

**C The Lord who comes in victory--The King of glory, it is he!**

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

*One of us, where we live*

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

## ^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

---

## ^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st Chapter

**C: Glory to you O Lord**

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

*"The Bethlehem Candle"*

Pr. Scott Lee

^SPECIAL MUSIC

**^NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Kneeling as able.)*

**Response: “Lord hear our prayer.”**

## ^PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Let us share the peace.

## 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 don't feel comfortable passing the plates during Covid, 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.*

OFFERING PRAYER *(Sing Melody: Away in a Manger)*

**Now let the glad tidings of great joy be heard: Fulfilled in Christ's birth is the prophets' sure word. O God, send your Spirit, fresh gifts to share; and brighten our lives, as our hearts we prepare.**

## +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 thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

**^LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)**

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**C:** Amen

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of **Holy Communion**. Please pick up your communion card and “Fellowship Cup”, an all-in-one wafer and juice set (the bread and wine) when entering the sanctuary. The pastor says “The Body of Christ given for you.” and the assistant minister says, “The Blood of Christ shed for you.” Open the top protective film to uncover the “body” (an unleavened wafer), place in your mouth then open the 2<sup>nd</sup> protective film to uncover the “blood” (100% grape juice) and drink. Please dispose of your cup in the receptacle provided when leaving the sanctuary. Sign the communion card 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

### Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.





we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

## ^DISMISSAL

May his presence brighten each pathway we take. Until in his glory at last  
 we awake.

**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. 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.

**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



## ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

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

<b>SUNDAY</b>	Education Hour	10:00 AM
	Christian Ed Mtg.	12:00 PM
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Bible Study ( <i>Zoom</i> )	7:00 PM
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Office Closed	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Office Closed	



**Finance  
Update**

**Oct. Income - \$12,102** (includes Building rental Income multi-month payments)  
**Oct. Expenses - \$8,779**

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

We have 3 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!



In the event of **Severe 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.

**Acme/ShopRite Gift Cards!** They are used like cash at any of the area stores. There is no extra charge for the certificates. **Our church receives 5% of the value of the coupons that you use. Help us help our church!** See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for details.



Last day to order **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 **December 4th**. 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.



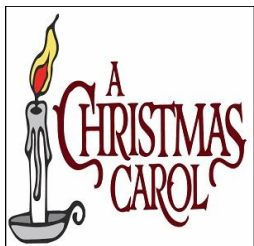
**RAISERIGHT/SCRIPT GIFT CARDS** ~ Starting your Christmas shopping yet? Make it easy with gift cards and help Immanuel also. Immanuel is selling gift cards for just about every store you may want. Immanuel will get a percentage back from sales. Forms are available on the table in the hospitality area 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. **Last date that orders will be sent in is today, Dec 4. Please allow 2 weeks to receive the gift cards.** 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 W. and she will check.



**ZOOM Bible Study moves back to Tuesday Nights on December 6th!** Our weekly virtual Bible Study continues on ZOOM! Please see our web site for ZOOM connection information or see Karl McClellan or Fred Warner. All are welcome and we hope to “see” you there!!

Please note in your 2022 envelope giving box, there is now **a new Advent Offering envelope**. This envelope replaces the Advent coin cards. Please be generous in your giving during the season of Advent.

## Immanuel to Go See “A Christmas Carol Comedy” at Hedgerow Theatre!



Delaware County’s favorite holiday tradition continues with the US premiere of a fun and festive new and different adaptation of **A Christmas Carol Comedy** featuring two-actors as Scrooge and "Everybody Else." A celebratory spectacle for all ages that bursts to life and is sure to make spirits bright.

Our **Outreach committee** is hoping to have an Immanuel Day at Hedgerow Theatre on Saturday, December 17 at 2 PM to see this new twist on a holiday favorite. Tickets are \$25.00 per person (We are getting the group discount!). Deadline to place your ticket order will be Sunday, December 11th. You can order tickets by emailing Darlene McClellan at: [dmcclellan@hedgerowtheatre.org](mailto:dmcclellan@hedgerowtheatre.org), or you may call 610-565-4211 (7am-2pm) and ask for Darlene.

Adding to the holiday festivities on December 17<sup>th</sup> is a musical treat of Christmas’ favorite music with a *live performance by the WXPB band “Last Chance” starting at 1pm*

**UPDATE: Immanuel’s Heating Oil Special Giving Campaign Continues!** We have asked you to prayerfully consider what extra you could give to help us with this. Our sincere “Thank you” to everyone who has been using our “OIL” envelopes! They are found on the BRIGHT GREEN display in the Hospitality area (just remember to jot your envelope number on it). If you have not already joined the effort you can start at any time! We’ll keep this campaign, based on Aesop’s Fable (The one about the “Ant and the Grasshopper”), going to help us through the heating season. The inflation in the cost of heating oil has hit us hard driving up our monthly budget by an additional \$400. **Please help your church with this.**



Thank you from your Resource Committee and your Church Council





My “Thanks” to all those who helped put up the manger and the tree. (From left to right): Keira, Pastor & Julia Lee, Joe & Janice Kintsche, Jacob Evans, Mike Million, Alejandro Enriquez, John Law, Kris McClellan, Fred Warner and Karl McClellan. One other key contributor was Colleen Kelly who provided the hay (and her horse “Manny” who was willing to share!)

**Happy 71<sup>st</sup> Birthday to Immanuel Lutheran’s Nativity Scene!** Our Nativity scene will celebrate its 71<sup>st</sup> 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!

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, 71 years ago, had a dream and made it come to life! 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 and the Christmas tree on Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>. Fellowship and excellent team work resulted in a fun and productive day!!



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

Sincerely, Karl McClellan

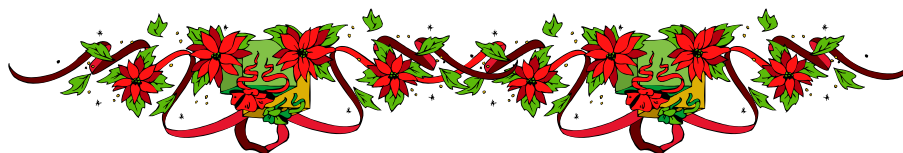


**Shop online with Amazon.** Enter through Amazon Smile and select Immanuel Lutheran Church Norwood as your charity and half of 1% will go to Immanuel. Thanks for supporting Immanuel.



### Important Dates – Please join us!

Blue Christmas Service	Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM Service
Cantata	Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 AM Service
Candlelight Service	Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 PM Service
Christmas Day	Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Synod Stream
Lessons & Carols	Jan. 1st	11:00 AM Service



**All 2022 offerings must be received by January 1st 2023.**

All committee chairpersons and leaders are asked to have their **Annual Reports in no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

