

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 2020



SHARE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
PASTOR'S PEN	3
COMMITTEE NEWS	4-7
PARISH NOTES	8-9
MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DAVENPORT	10-11




DECEMBER 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

DUE TO THE INCREASED CASES OF COVID19 IN PA, ALL CHURCH GROUP EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.



The LAST DAY for 2020 contributions will be December 31st, 2020.

		1	2	3	4	5
6 Advent 2 Virtual Worship	7 Deadline Poinsettia Orders	8 6:00 PM Resource Mtg.	9	10	11	12
13 Advent 3 Virtual Worship	14	15	16	17	18 CLOSED	19
20 Advent 4 12:00 PM Council Mtg. Virtual Worship	21	22	23	24 Virtual Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day  CLOSED	26
27 Virtual Worship	28	29	30	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR	1 January	2 January
OFFICE CLOSED						

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PASTOR'S PEN

The Christmas tree has been an essential decoration of the Christmas season for the last two centuries. Even a thousand years after the crucifixion of Christ, most of those living in what is now Scandinavia endured brutal winters. The Vikings found hope and strength in the evergreen tree. Having a tree in the house was said to bring the gift of strength to life through the worst stretches of winter.

In the seventh Century, St. Boniface, a monk from England said that the evergreen was the tree of life. He said, that even winter could not kill the tree and it stood for the eternal life offered in Christ. Furthermore, he pointed out the triangular shape of the tree noting each point represents the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Legend has it that Martin Luther was walking home on a December evening and was struck by the beauty of the starlight coming through the branches of the many fir trees in the woods. When he got home, he began to attach candles to the tree. Luther thought that the tree represented the everlasting love of God. He pointed out that the color of the tree does not fade, just like the Lord's love never fades, no matter what the circumstances. The candlelight represented the hope that Christ brought to the world through his birth and resurrection.



Peace and Blessings, Pastor



CHURCH STAFF

- *Pastor*
The Rev. Scott R. Lee
- *Secretary*
Vi Mayberry
- *Director of Music*
Kathleen Schneider

CHURCH COUNCIL

- *Jean Crane*
- *Jason DeLong*
- *Siobhan DeLong - Secretary*
- *Fran Fisher*
- *Tom Graham*
- *Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus*
- *Colleen Kelly*
- *Janice Narcavage*
- *Vicki Slotterback*
- *Fred Warner - President*
- *Jeanne Warner - Treasurer*
- *Robin Woodrow - Vice President*

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE GOES VIRTUAL



DUE TO THE INCREASED CASES OF COVID19 ALL CHURCH GROUP EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

Please keep up with the most recent church developments:



Visit our website:

www.immanuelnorwood.org

Follow us on Facebook:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood

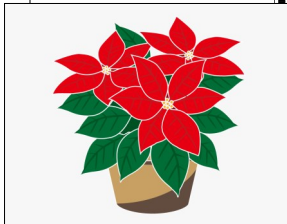
Church Office hours 9am-1pm:

Answering machine: 610-586-5860

Send us your email address:

secretary.immanuel@verizon.net

Christmas Poinsettias! Due to worship services going virtual once again, we will be taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias either by mail or by dropping off orders during office hours. Please include number of plants, payment, and dedication for the bulletin in your envelope. The last day to order is Monday, December 7th. The cost **per** Poinsettia plant is \$8.00 each. For pick-up information after Christmas, please contact Fred Warner at 610.237.1714.

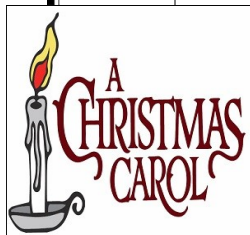


Start your Christmas shopping online with **Amazon**. Enter through Amazon Smile and select Immanuel Lutheran Church Norwood as your charity and half of 1% will go to Immanuel. Thanks for supporting Immanuel!



Social Ministry Committee

As the holiday season approaches, we all wish everyone a healthy and happy one. With health issues all around us, we have decided to **cancel the Christmas bazaar** this year. In addition, we are unable to gather together to make cemetery sprays and cones, which led us **to the difficult decision to cancel them also**. Thank you for your support throughout the years and during this unprecedented time. Have a happy, safe, and blessed season!



You may recall last year the Outreach Committee sponsored an outing to see "A Christmas Carol" at Hedgerow Theatre in Rose Valley. A good time was had by all and we'd hoped that would be the start of a yearly tradition. Sadly this year, because of the COVID pandemic, there are no performances with "in person" audiences. However, Hedgerow will be offering a virtual performance of "A Christmas Carol" which you can enjoy from the safety of your home. To purchase tickets to see this please visit their web site at: www.hedgerowtheatre.org

Our Decision to Not Put up our Manger and Church Christmas Tree due to COVID

Due to the continuing rise in COVID cases, the Government's guidance to "Stay Home and Stay Safe", the Bishop's message to move to Virtual through the end of the year (at least) and an abundance of caution for our members + volunteers, **we have decided to not put up the manger and tree this year**. Thank you for your support in the past and we are already looking forward to being back in 2021! **Please abide by all the Guidelines and Stay Safe!** Any questions please contact Karl McClellan, Cell: 610-761-4804 or email: krmcfamily@aol.com. **Thank you!**



Little Free Pantry! Outreach would like Immanuel to join the Little Free Pantry movement. A Little Free Pantry is designed to hold non-perishable pantry items and would be accessible to anyone walking by the church. People are invited to "Give what you can. Take what you need." As we pursue this project, we first need the pantry cabinet. If you or someone you know has carpentry skills, we'd love to talk to them...the Committee will provide the materials, but we don't have the woodworking skills. More information is available at <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/> and click on Resources. Interested in helping as we implement this project? Call or email Joyce Morrison, Outreach Chair – 610-506-5387 or jemorrison28@gmail.com.



Thinking About Gifts as We enter Advent

As we enter the Advent and Christmas season it is natural to think about “Gifts” . . . both those we receive and those we give. The ultimate Christmas gift was GOD giving us his SON, Jesus Christ to ultimately take away our sin and provide the way to eternal life. What a miraculous gift! As we look around everything we have on this Earth is a gift from GOD. Thanks Be To GOD! We are gifts as well to Immanuel as we share our Time, Talents and Treasures to enable our Church to fulfill our mission. The Resource Committee sincerely “Thanks” everyone who has given of their Time, Talents and Treasures so that Immanuel could keep going even through these unique and challenging COVID times.

As mentioned previously, we did receive a government sponsored “Payroll Protection Plan” small business loan “given” through PNC bank. We do believe we have qualified for the loan to be forgiven. At this time we are assembling the paperwork and will submitting it when directed so that the loan may be forgiven.



Let's continue do our best with generous support so we can continue our Mission doing God's Work . . . the best we can (“In Person” with Face Masks, Social distancing and following CDC guidelines plus providing our service virtually”) as we move forward in the “new normal”.

Once again.. **Thank you,**

Your Resource Committee



HOLIDAY HELPERS

Friends of the Congregation have offered to provide meals for two families over the holidays. The Committee decided that grocery store gift cards would be most useful to our recipient families – they can purchase the food their family likes and that meets their dietary requirements. The Outreach Committee would like to help even more families, so we have two requests:



1. Do you know of any families or individuals that are struggling this year and would make good use of grocery cards to help them celebrate the holidays? These folks don't need to be members of Immanuel, but we will need names and contact information. Please call or email Pastor Lee (pastor.immanuel@gmail.com) or the church office (secretary.immanuel@gmail.com).
2. We would like to give \$50 - \$100 per family, depending on the family size and your generosity. To donate to this effort send it to the church office. Please mark your gifts for the "Holiday Help"

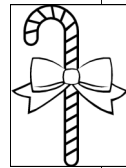
To complete this charitable effort in a timely way, please provide names of recipients and/or donations by December 10.



SAY **MERRY CHRISTMAS** WITH GIFT CARDS BOUGHT THROUGH IMMANUEL AND AT THE SAME TIME, AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU, GIVE BACK TO THE CHURCH

WE SELL ACME/GIANT/SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS!!!
FOR EVERY GIFT CARD WE SELL WE KEEP 5%!!

For the neighbor that helped shovel your snow, the mailman that always goes the extra mile, or the elderly Aunt that doesn't need another knickknack but could use help with their prescriptions and food!! Call the church office and leave a message Alex Narcavage, he will get back to you. Cash or checks are welcome!

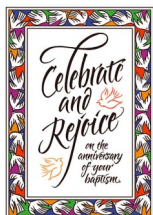




HOMEBOUND MEMBERS BIRTHDAY

Mary Cole ~ December 10th
Betty Wharton ~ December 25th

Please refer to your church directory for address information.



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

- Deborah Leflar Joanne Fitzpatrick
Karl McClellan Matthew Conley Jr

THE POWER OF PRAYER



- Jane Moll
Leanne Crouthamel
Margaret Swingle
Bill Fisher
Mary Cole
Caroline Harlan
Thomas Deshulo
Teri Lanan



- Friends & Family of Roy Russell.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ~ Psalm 147:3



IN REMEMBRANCE

Roy E. Russell - November 1, 2020

Roy Russell's memorial service, led by Pastor Scott Lee, was held at Immanuel on November 6, 2020. Burial took place at Edgewood Memorial Park in Glen Mills.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ~ John 14:1-2

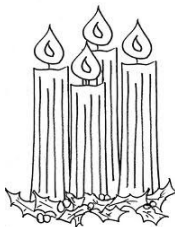


CONGREGATION STATISTICS



	Members Removed	Members Added	Avg. Weekly Attendance	Avg. YTD Attendance
Oct.	0	1	28	38

ADVENT COIN FOLDER REMINDER 



Your Advent Coin Folder can be returned at anytime during the Advent season. The offering received through the Advent Coin folder is used during the winter months to help defray the cost of our heating oil. Prices for this season are expected to be extremely high!

Please drop off your coin folder during office hours at anytime during the month of December. Your generous support is appreciated!

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND LEADERS



Reminder to have your **annual reports** in by the end of the year to the church office. Email is the most efficient and preferred method of communication if possible. Everyone's support and help is greatly appreciated.

UPDATED MEMBER DIRECTORIES



Before writing out those Christmas cards, make sure you pick up the updated directory of Immanuel Members at the church office during the week between 9AM-1PM.

Not able to pick it up? Email "secretary.immanuel@verizon.net" and we can email one to you in MSWord or PDF format. Homebound members, just let your Lay minister know, and we will drop one off.



AN ELECTION MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DAVENPORT

Greetings Beloved,

Grace, peace, power and love in the name of the One who can do all things but fail, Jesus Christ!

As this long election season draws to a close, I want to thank you for your participation in the democratic process. No matter who you voted for, it matters that we participated together as citizens in this record voter turnout. As Lutherans we know that God is active caring for our neighbors through our government officials. Our prayers are with our current president and administration, as well as with President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris, that they may govern with the best interests of all Americans at heart. We also congratulate the Vice President-elect on her historic election as the first woman, of South Asian and Black descent, ever to hold this high office.

I also offer words of encouragement for all of us who have been dismayed by the sometimes bitter actions of our fellow citizens during this time. Please know they do not define us. We continue to pray for calm and order during this time of transition for our nation.

In this anxious and challenging time, I pray that you will find comfort in the words of the psalmist:

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains*



fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

“Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” (Psalm 46)

In these turbulent times, I choose to believe that God is our “ever-present help.” I pray that you will also find solace in the words of your favorite scriptures.

Now that most of the votes are counted, and the decision made by America’s people, what is next for us in Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod? We continue “doing more together than we can alone” to bring light into darkness, hope into despair, love to trump hate, and healing to the hurting. We are disciples of Christ, claimed in His blood on purpose for a purpose to build up the Kin-dom of God, to be the beloved community. We are SEPA strong. Let's go to work together, doing God’s work with our hands.

Peace and blessings, +The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport , Bishop



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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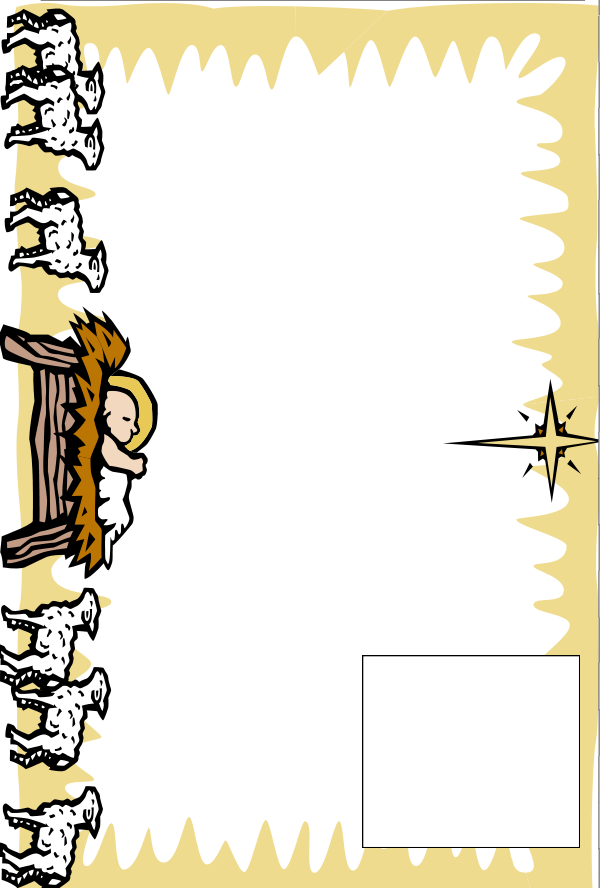
The Rev. Scott R. Lee

Church Office Hours

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



SPONSOR 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 and dedication.

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

Envelope No:

Phone