

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 2021



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

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DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please pick up your "Fellowship Cup", an all-in-one wafer and juice set (the bread and wine) when entering the sanctuary before worship.</p> 			1	2 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00 PM Bazaar Setup	3 6:00 PM Bazaar Setup OFFICE CLOSED	4 9:00 AM-2:00 PM Christmas Bazaar 2:30 PM Manger Setup
5 Advent 2 Poinsettia Sale 10:00 AM Education Hour 12:00 PM W&M Mtg. Christian Ed Mtg. Choir Practice	6 9:00 AM Meditation Monday (Zoom) 6:30 PM Bereavement Group OFFICE CLOSED	7	8	9 6:00 PM Wreath Making 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	10	11
12 Advent 3 10:00 AM Education Hour Property Mtg. 12:00 AM Outreach Mtg. Choir Practice	13 9:00 AM Meditation Monday (Zoom) 6:30 PM Bereavement Group	14 6:30 PM Resource Mtg.	15	16 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	17	18
19 Advent 4 Musical Celebration 10:00 AM Education Hour 12:00 AM Council Mtg.	20 9:00 AM Meditation Monday (Zoom) 6:30 PM Bereavement Group	21	22	23	24 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service OFFICE CLOSED	25 Christmas Day 
26 Lessons & Carols 10:00 AM Education Hour	27 6:30 PM Bereavement Group	28	29	30	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR	January 1 OFFICE CLOSED



We will still practice safe distancing and wearing of masks **unless otherwise announced.**

The Calendar reflects "Church" events only. For information in regard to "Use of Building" by **outside groups**, please see the church calendar in the church office, or contact Vi Mayberry or Fred Warner.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTOR'S PEN

We are entering that season of shorter days and longer nights. One of the very real challenges we face is Seasonal Affect Disorder (SAD). As we end one liturgical year and begin a new one, the readings we hear in worship have much to do with last things and new things, endings and beginnings.

I would like to share with you this "Blessing when the world is ending" by Jan Richardson, from her book, *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*

Look, the world is always ending somewhere.

Somewhere the sun has come crashing down.

Somewhere it has gone completely dark.

Somewhere it has ended with the gun, the knife, the fist.

Somewhere it has ended with the slammed door, the shattered hope.

Somewhere it has ended with the utter quiet that follows the news from the phone, the television, the hospital room.

Somewhere it has ended with a tenderness that will break your heart.

But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose.

It has not come to cause despair.

It is simply here because there is nothing a blessing is better suited for than an ending, nothing that cries out more for a blessing than when a world is falling apart.

This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false comfort; it will not talk to you about one door opening when another one closes.

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*
- *Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus*
- *Joe Kintsche*
- *Frank Martinsen*
- *Alex Narcavage*
- *Janice Narcavage*
- *Fred Warner - President*
- *Don Watts*
- *Robin Woodrow - Vice President*



It will simply sit itself beside you among the shards and gently turn your face toward the direction from which the light will come, gathering itself about you as the world begins again.



As people of faith, we live in hope, trusting that the light will come and that the world continues to turn.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor

Support us when you shop for Christmas



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!



We are 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 **through Sunday, December**

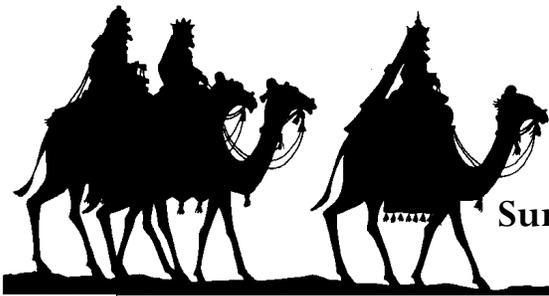
5th. The cost per Poinsettia plant is **\$8.00** each. Please use the envelope provided by the Altar Guild members for the completion of your order



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



**- Christmas Music Celebration -
Sunday, December 19th - 11:00 AM**



**- Candlelight Service -
Christmas Eve - 8:00 PM**

**- Lessons & Carols -
Sunday, December 26th - 11:00AM**



Chance to help! We will be putting up our manger scene on the front lawn and setting up our Christmas tree on Saturday December 4th starting at 2:30PM after the Christmas Bazaar wraps up at 2PM. Many hands will make it go well!! Please consider helping us out as we decorate our church for the blessing of Christmas!! Any questions please contact Karl McClellan (Cell) 610-761-4804 or email: krmcfamily@aol.com) Look for future communications on when the decorations come down for another chance to help. Tentatively the Manger “take-down” is planned for Sat. January 8th starting at 9:00AM.



Advent, Our Blessings and Giving

As we enter Advent and the Christmas season, our thoughts turn toward the greatest gift of all that GOD gave us, his Son Jesus, and Salvation through Grace. As we think about our blessings, we need to ask all of us to consider our church. Unfortunately we continue to see a decline in giving through the pandemic. We need to ask all of us to prayerfully consider *what more we can do to help our church*.

For those coming in person please remember we have offering plates to receive your gifts. We have resumed “passing the plates”. But if you are uncomfortable with passing, then please use the plates before the service or as you leave (Please see our Bulletin for specifics.)

For those doing church virtually we ask you to please consider mailing a check for your offering to the church office. (We are pursuing getting an easy process on our web site and Facebook for virtual donations....more to come on that soon!).

Recall we had our special Congregational meeting on September 26th and voted to take a loan to repay the \$13,136.00 plus accumulated interest that was not forgiven under the PPP program. That new monthly bill will be \$302.62/month. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do *incrementally*, to help our church to pay this back. Any donations you make toward this will go to pay this new monthly bill. Just make a note on your donations that they are for the PPP loan.

Finally our Advent Coin folders are now available as you enter the church. Just ask our greeter for one.

All your gifts to Immanuel (Time, Talents and Treasures) equip our Church to fulfill our mission even during these unique and challenging COVID times.

Let's do our best to provide generous support so we can continue our Mission doing God's Work....the best we can for now (keep using Face Masks, Social distancing, washing of hands, following CDC guidelines and seeking a vaccine/booster).

Once again.....Thank you!

Sincerely, Your Resource Committee

Jeanne Warner & Karl McClellan (Co-chairs)
Fran Fisher, Sandy Hendrick & Peg Martinsen.



Holidays are for Sharing!

Let's remember our neighbors as we prepare for Christmas. Please pick up some extra food items when you do your own shopping for our Little Food Pantry. You can purchase grocery gift cards in smaller denominations for our congregation to give to others, which allows those folks to select their favorite holiday foods.

Pantry donations can be placed directly into the Little Pantry or placed on the shelves just to the left as you enter the church from Chester Pike. Grocery gift cards can be purchased from Alex Narcavage and given to any Outreach Committee member. (Jean Crane, Colleen Kelly, Frank Martinsen, Karl McClellan, Joyce Morrison)



FINISH YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH US!!

WE SELL ACME/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 knick knack but could use help with their prescriptions and food!!

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS MAKE PRACTICAL, USEFUL, AND APPRECIATED CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!

Please see Alex Narcavage on Sundays to purchase gift cards. Cash or checks are welcome!

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



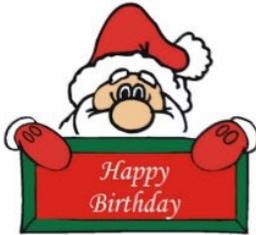
COME TO
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN'S
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, December 4th

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bake Sale
Cookie Walk
Soup Sale
Craft Sale
Lunch
Katie's Attic





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

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ♥ Leanne Crouthamel | ♥ Sandra Kessler | ♥ Peg Martinsen |
| ♥ Margaret Swingle | ♥ Debbie Leflar | ♥ Kelly Fusco |
| ♥ Mary Cole | ♥ Robin Johnson | ♥ Brittany & Sean |
| ♥ Caroline Harlan | ♥ George & Doris
Kloehs | ♥ Deshulia & Catlinlo
Families |
| ♥ Betty Wharton | ♥ Tina McDevitt | ♥ Eric McMullan |
| ♥ Neher Family | ♥ Lisa Fortwangler | ♥ All effected by Covid |
| ♥ Joan Leake | | |



SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

In the event of severe winter 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.



CONGREGATION STATISTICS



	Members Removed	Members Added	Avg. Weekly Attendance	Avg. YTD Attendance
Oct.	0	0	37	33

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 place your coin folder in the offering plate 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.

Before writing out those Christmas cards, make sure you pick up the **updated directory of Immanuel Members**. Directories are located on the right of the bookshelf in the secretary's office labeled with a pink sign above them.

Forgot to pick one up on Sunday? Just call Vi and you can pick it up during the week between 9AM-1PM. Homebound members, just let Vi know, and we will send one out .



THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-20

² In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

501 Chester Pike, Norwood, PA 19074

Phone: 610-586-5860

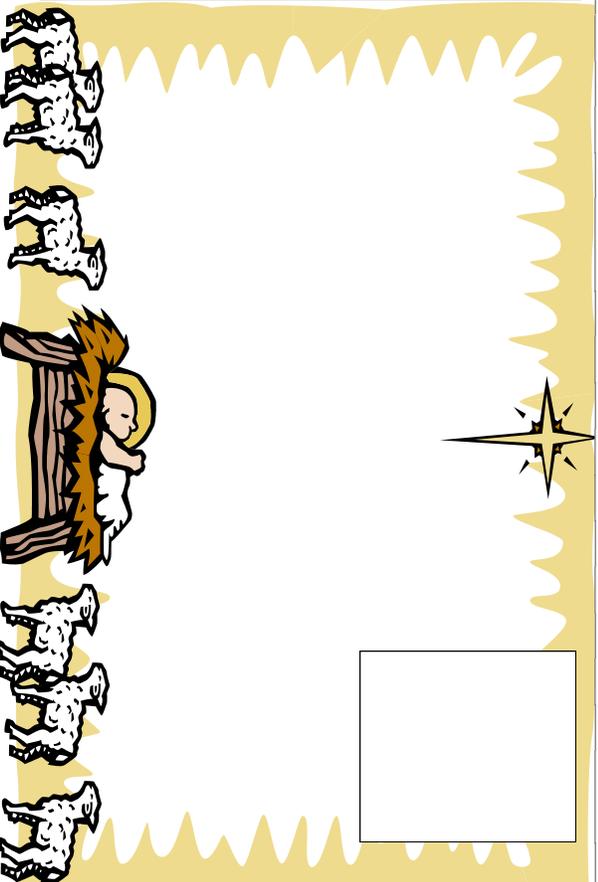
E-mail: Pastor: Immanuelnorwood@gmail.com

Secretary: Immanuel@verizon.net

The Rev. Scott R. Lee
Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

DECEMBER
2021

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

