

SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 5, 2021

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

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 holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

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

To you, O God, we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✝ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

^OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom-ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom-ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (vs. 1-2)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Light one can-dle to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 2 | Light two can-dles to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 3 | Light three can-dles to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |
| 4 | Light four can-dles to | watch for Mes-si - ah: | let the light ban-ish | dark - ness. |



He	shall bring	sal - va - tion	to	Is - ra - el,	God	ful - fills	the	prom - ise.
He	shall feed	the flock	like a	shep-herd,	gent - ly	lead	them	home-ward.
Lift	your heads	and lift	high the	gate-way	for the	King	of	glo - ry.
He	is com - ing,	tell the	glad tid - ings.	Let your	lights	be	shin - ing!	

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79 (*Read responsively*)

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,**

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you,

because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score for the Gospel Acclamation consists of two systems, each with a soprano and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." written below the notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd Chapter

C: **Glory to you O Lord**

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Scott Lee

^HYMN

When Peace, like a River

It Is Well with My Soul



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888

Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

^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: “Your mercy is great.”

^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.

^OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
 brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
 and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+HOLY COMMUNION+

^GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

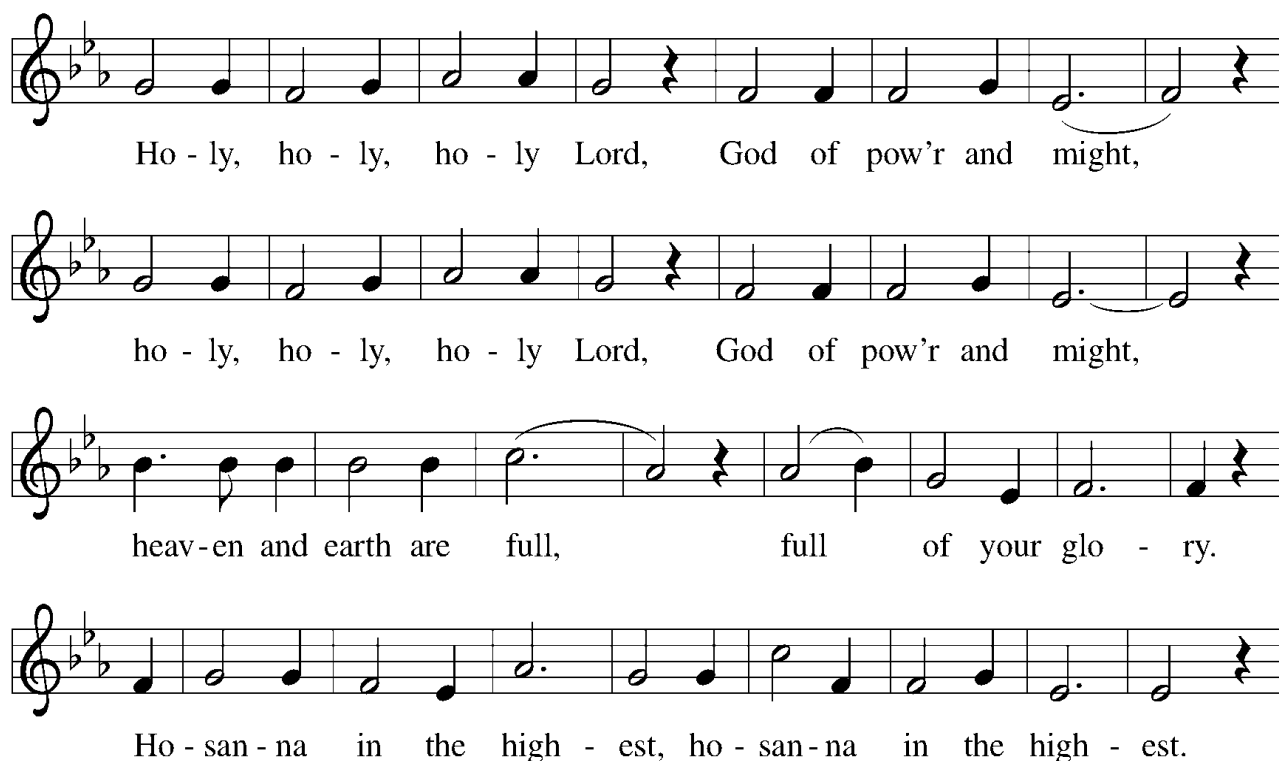
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give 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'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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: God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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 2nd 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

^HYMN

Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

^DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

The Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus in memory of her father's death on Pearl Harbor Day.



ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.

SUNDAY	Education Hour	10:00 AM
	Christian Ed Mtg.	12:00 PM
	Worship & Music Mtg.	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	12:00 PM
MONDAY	Meditation Monday (<i>Zoom</i>)	9:00 AM
	Bereavement Group	6:30 PM
THURSDAY	Social Ministry Wreath Making	6:00 PM
	Bible Study (<i>Zoom</i>)	7:00 PM

It is required that everyone (**vaccinated and non-vaccinated**) to wear a mask when entering the building for Sunday service. This includes the time while gathered in the Hospitality Area for fellowship prior to service and while seated in the sanctuary for church service.”



Please help us pay back our PPP Loan! On September 26th we voted to take a 5 year loan to repay the amount that was not forgiven under the PPP program. That new monthly bill is \$302./month. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do *incrementally*, to help our church to pay this back. Just make a note on your donations that they are for the PPP loan. **Thank you, Your Resource Committee**



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.

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.



Last Sunday to order Christmas Poinsettias! Please see one of the Altar Guild members following Sunday service beginning **November 14th through Sunday, December 5th.** The cost per Poinsettia plant is \$8.00 each.

The **Advent Coin Folder** is be available at church Sunday mornings. The offering received through the Advent Coin folder is used during the winter months to help defray the cost of our heating oil. Please be faithful in your giving. The Advent coin folder may be returned anytime during the Advent season. Your generosity and faithful giving is truly appreciated.



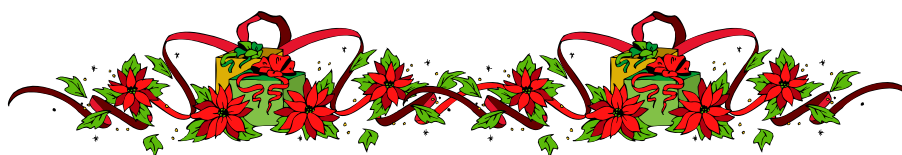
Acme and ShopRite Gift Cards! They are used like cash at any of the area stores. There is no extra charge for the certificates. **Our church receives 5% of the value of the coupons that you use. Help us help our church!** Contact Alex Narcavage for details.

This year the Interboro Ministerium has decided to support Angel Tree ministries. Thousands of children with a mom or dad in prison unwrap joy each year with Angel Tree Christmas—a gift that reminds them they are valued and loved.

Would you please join me in supporting those who are less fortunate and unable to gather with family this season? Please look for angels on the Christmas tree in the hospitality area. There are several ways to be involved, buying a \$25 gift, volunteering to wrap gifts, as well as help dropping gifts off would be greatly appreciated. If you have further questions please let me know. Pastor Lee

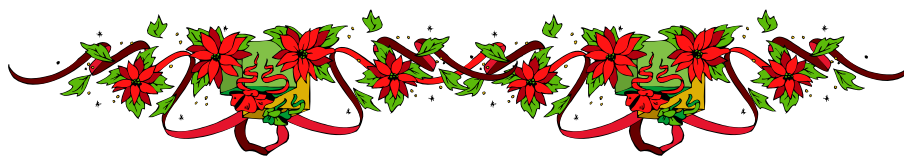


Social Ministry will again be making beautiful **cemetery sprays and cones** for your loved ones. Look for details and the order forms in the back of the church.



Important Dates – Please join us!

Christmas Musical Celebration	Dec. 19 th	11:00 AM Service
Candlelight Service	Dec. 24 th	8:00 PM Service
Lessons & Carols	Dec. 26 th	11:00 AM Service



All 2021 offerings must be received by January 2nd, 2021.



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

In the event of **Severe Weather** please call church office at 610.586.5860 for a recording announcement on the status of Sunday morning services. Closing announcement will be made later than 6:30 AM to ensure ample time to plan your morning.



NEW and EXCITING for IMMANUEL!

We are adding a NEW, EASY and VIRTUAL way for people to DONATE to IMMANUEL! We'll be using "Tithe.ly", the company that partnered with the ELCA and is recommended by our Synod. SOON you will see on our Website and on our Facebook page a "link" which you can click and make a secure donation. AND in the BULLETIN, there will be a QR code which you can scan with your smart phone that also will take you right to the Tithe.ly site. Thank You for your continued generous support of Immanuel!!!! Your Resource Committee