

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 6 JUNE/JULY 2020



As of printing, all group events are cancelled but subject to change due to COVID-19. Check our website for updates.

www.immanuelnorwood.org

SHARE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

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PASTOR'S PEN

This has been a strange time indeed. This time of Covid-19 has disrupted our lives in many ways. All of our lives have been shaken up and we struggle to create meaning in a time where days blend together.

I talked in my sermon last week about depression being the absence of meaning and that we derive our meaning, primarily, from our relationships with other people.

The church has always been about helping us to grow within ourselves and by extension to share our time, talents and treasures that we have developed.



In this time of need Immanuel and St. Matthew have joined up to hold a food drive and distribution. There were 42 bags full of groceries donated! The initial drive saw over half of the bags given away and they continue to be handed out weekly. I want to give a special thank you to Leonorann Iford of St. Matthew for organizing the event! I also want to give a special thank you to

Colleen Kelly for organizing the gathering of food and taking it to St. Matthew.

I want to give a special shout out to Peg Martinsen who has been making stylish face masks for church members as well as our first responders! She says, "It makes me feel good and I enjoyed it."

I want to thank all of you that helped those in our church and community! I would love to hear about what you are doing that makes you feel good and the things you are enjoying in this strange time.

Peace & Blessings, Pastor Lee

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*

Zoom Worship on Sundays at 9:30 am after my 9am

Facebook Live sermon. I chose the platform Zoom because you can call in through your computer, by your cell phone or home telephone.



Going forward I am looking for names of people who would need a physical bulletin printed. They can arrange to pick the bulletin up or arrange for delivery. Are there volunteers interested in helping deliver bulletins if the need arises?

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88363587387?pwd=cXRVeXl1dCtHdERiOFg3R3VoZTIxZz09>

Meeting ID: 883 6358 7387

Password: Marty1

Dial In for those without Internet access.

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 883 6358 7387

Password: 014554



Please note the dial in telephone numbers are not "800" numbers and you could potentially have excess phone charges if you do not have long distance or unlimited service included with your plan.

I would like to thank you all for your patience as we figure out how to be in church in this unprecedented time. ~ Pastor Lee



Summer is upon us and things are winding down with Social Ministry. In June we usually celebrate Father's Day at Immanuel. It is wonderful to see everyone enjoy a little treat and gather after service to celebrate very special people in our lives. In absence of this year's celebration due to COVID-19, a big shout out to all the fathers out there, **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**

We are looking forward to our fall/winter events, should restrictions be lifted. In the mean time, we hope everyone has a safe, and secure summer!

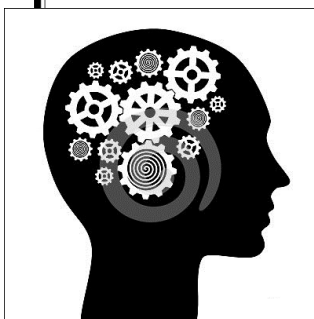
May God Bless You All.

Social Ministry Committee

My thoughts during our shut down.

Joyce Morrison

As a senior with asthma, I have been contemplating the possibility of my own demise with the threat of COVID 19. With this context in mind, please consider these thoughts, inspired by my participation in the Financial Peace University classes by video chat and attending video meetings to plan the Church Council Retreat (originally scheduled for late April, now on hold). I have been learning lots about financial planning and generosity to the church.



I have not prepared well enough for my husband and son to deal with my “stuff” when I am not here. Yes, I have a will, a living will, and a durable power of attorney prepared. BUT I did not include the church in my will – an oversight I will fix officially when I can get to a notary to witness the addition to my will. In the meantime, I have shared my wishes with my family. In preparing for the Council Retreat we have been reading a book on generosity, and the book pointed out that our church relies on our regular giving now – but what happens when we pass? The financials of the church will suffer immediately when our gifts disappear. Why not provide a gift to the church that would be at least equivalent to our regular giving for six months or a year? That gives the resource committee some time to adjust the budget, if necessary.

The contents of my home would be a terrible burden to leave for someone else...so, my husband and I have been going through all the accumulated stuff from our younger years and items stored in our house from recent times. I have been living in this house for 25 years, longer than I have ever lived at a single address. It's nice to think that the effort to eliminate the unnecessary “stuff” from our home is a gift to whomever has to empty it someday, and a gift to ourselves, as our basement is starting to look less like a junkyard!

With the extra time at home right now, I am doing some other chores. I am marking items in my home with the name of the person to whom I would like it to be given. I am taking pictures and writing up the history of the items as well.

For those of you who are at home now, but not yet retired, I recommend that you use your extra time to do some of the chores that folks intend to do during retirement (like my basement or my garden) and give yourself the gift of having less to take care of when you do actually retire!

Please do all that is necessary to stay safe in these uncertain times.

God Bless



Side Note

I'm gardening a lot and have some perennial plants that like sunshine that need to be thinned. If you are interested, contact me, Joyce Morrison, and I'll dig them so you can pick them up from my driveway. Contact me at: jemorrison28@gmail.com or at 610-506-5387 (talk or text).



BE JOYFUL IN *hope*
PATIENT IN *affliction*
FAITHFUL IN *prayer*

Romans 12:12

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH PA STATEWIDE
COVID-19 GUIDELINES.**

ALL GROUP EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

**This is a fluid situation and changes daily, please keep up
with the most recent church developments by:**

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



Plan the Work, Work the Plan



The country is going to slowly reopen, and that includes houses of worship.

I can guarantee that we will not go back to “business as usual” as a country, and that includes our churches. If you think we’ll all rush back to church and pick up where we left off, don’t kid yourself – it’s not going to happen. Or at least it *shouldn’t* happen. We need to think and plan carefully so we do not endanger people simply because we let our guard down and believed that the Coronavirus crisis had passed. Now, as believers let’s agree to live by faith and not operate in fear, but let’s also agree to be proactive and to act in wisdom towards our members and guests, especially those among us who are most susceptible to becoming infected with COVID-19.

Each congregation will have to arrive at a decision about how each will reopen. All of us want to abide by the instructions from our local, state and national leaders.

That means that congregations will not arrive at the same conclusions about how to reopen. Many things we do in our church may be similar or exactly the same as we reopen. Depending upon our denominations, our ministry contexts, and what our local authorities allow, other decisions will be more unique. Please be understanding if churches in the area come to different conclusions about what they believe is right in this situation. We’re all making the best decisions we can with the information at hand.

Below is a list of edited questions to ponder, originally asked by Ken Braddy, as we begin thinking about easing our lockdown and begin to face a new reality.

- **What adjustments will we make to the Lord’s Supper, baptisms, and our choir ministry?** Can we conduct communion like we have in the past? Will we use the self-contained juice and cracker cups? What about baptism – it’s going to be impossible to practice physical distancing in a baptism font. .
- **Is a physical “pass the plate” offering a thing of the past?** How would you feel if you were the 100th person in a worship service to touch the offering plate that 99 other people just touched? Would you be worried about COVID-19 transmission? Sure you would. So how will we take up our weekly offering?
- **Are we going to continue hosting special events?** Will we continue to host weddings? How about funerals? Graduations? Revivals? You get the idea – there are a number of special events that our church might host. Which ones will continue, and which ones will be put on hold? And how will we explain which ones continue and which ones don’t?

- **What is our plan if/when volunteers step down?** I'm already hearing that older volunteers are telling their church leaders they aren't coming back until a vaccine is readily available – it's just too risky for them because they are most at risk from COVID-19. Will we be able to fully staff your classes/events like you did back in February?
- **What's our strategy to clean and sanitize your church in real time?** It's one thing to prepare in advance of people's return to the church building, but how will we keep the place clean and disinfected on a Sunday or Wednesday? What about between different groups using the church? Does this give rise to a new team of people whose ministry it is to walk around wiping door knobs and other surfaces? Who is going to clean restrooms throughout the morning or evening? Remember people will be touching things while they are in church.
- **Do door greeters do their jobs differently, or at all?** Not have door greeters? Seriously?! We've always had door greeters. But in a COVID-19 world, do you really want a door greeter holding the door open while a parishioner walks by within a foot or two of them? The new normal may be for greeters to stand back six feet, inside the church building, and welcome people verbally without opening the door for them. You experience that at big box stores now. A greeter is there to say hello, but they don't make you pass within a foot of them! Welcome to the new world COVID-19 has created.
- **Because people may return very slowly to church, how will we count attendance and effectiveness?** The question has already been raised about should we or should we not take attendance during online worship and online group Bible studies. It's almost a sure thing that worship attendance in church will not be what it was pre-COVID-19. You need to decide now if you're going to count in church only attendance, or merge and add online attendance, too. And how will group leaders take a count in their online groups and go about reporting that?
- **Should you add and/or shorten worship services to allow for social distancing?** If physical gatherings are limited in size, we have a few options: (1) offer more services (2) encourage people to continue worshipping online (3) remove chairs from the worship space to help people avoid close contact (4) block off pews so that people no longer sit right behind someone, reducing the chances of them sneezing or coughing directly into the back of the person in front of them.
- **Do we have a plan for reducing expenses if our church's offerings don't rebound?** We need to be thinking, "What if..." – what if our offerings don't hold steady because of rising unemployment of members? Before the church returns to the building, we need a "plan B" strategy just in case giving drops in late summer or early fall. Possible rebound of Covid.
- **How will you deal with the rise of COVID-19 related addictions?** One mental health expert said in a webinar meeting last week, "I'm hearing that porn sites are giving away free memberships during COVID-19...just what people don't need." In that same webinar last week on

mental health, the presenter assured the audience that substance abuse is on the rise, too. Alcohol sales are soaring. He cautioned us to be ready to do lots of counseling and referring of people to professionals in our post-COVID 19 reality.

- **Should we be investing in new digital equipment right now?** Yes, we've all hopped online and used Facebook Live to broadcast our worship services. Some of us are doing that with iPads and other devices, but is this the time to admit that online worship is probably here to stay? If yes, does it then make sense to invest dollars now so that cameras and other equipment can be purchased that will help the church be more professional in the new online world of worship.
- **When we gather for worship, will people be asked to wear facemasks? Will the church provide them (or can the church provide them)?** States and local municipalities are going to vary in what they require for larger gatherings to take place. One state I heard of is asking that people wear masks as they return to church. Will we turn away people who don't wear one? Will our church be able to find masks to provide them for worshipers?
- **Should pens and hymnals be removed from the backs of worship center pews?** This may help to reduce contact with hard surfaces so that COVID-19 is not passed that way. Again, this isn't a forever decision if we choose to do this. Hymnals and pens can return! Perhaps they never leave, but are wiped down after uses. No doubt, this will be a big decision in some churches.
- **When adults join an online group, what's the plan to reduce awkwardness and make them feel welcome?** Should we consider having online "greeters" in groups? These would be members of the group who are charged with the responsibility of spotting new people in a Zoom meeting, initiating a private conversation with them through the Chat tool, and then introducing them to the group at large during an appropriate time in the Bible study.
- **How will group leaders take attendance in online groups?** Groups still need to record who is present, because those who are not still need to be contacted. Guests need to be included in your group's ministry strategy, and you'll need some basic information about them. How do you capture that now that you won't have a physical card for them to fill out? Will that be done in a follow-up email or phone call?

The logo for the United States Census 2020, featuring the text "United States®" in a small font above "Census" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and "2020" in a large, bold, sans-serif font below it.

The census is looking to hire census takers in Delaware County for jobs that will begin once social distancing permits activity. Go to the 2020census.gov/jobs link. Census taker jobs are full or part time with flexible hours and pay of \$19.50 / hour in Delaware County plus \$.575 per mile.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Greetings Immanuel friends. I hope this finds all of you safe and healthy.

As we move into the summer months and it is still unknown when or how church services will resume, volunteer assignments will not be listed for the month of June or any month thereafter. When we are permitted to reopen, the volunteer sign-up sheet typically used for the summer months will be found on the back table in the hospitality area. My great hope is that we will soon be back in our pews on Sunday mornings and the volunteer slots will be filled.....if only!

Until that Sunday comes, we will continue to listen to Pastor on Facebook Live at 9:00am on Sunday mornings with music provided by Kathleen. Pastor will also have a service on Zoom at 9:30am for both Immanuel and St. Matthews (see the details on Page3). We will all be together in spirit-Immanuel strong! Stay strong. Stay healthy. Stay safe! I look forward to sharing God's word with all of you soon.

Darlene and the Worship & Music Committee



HELP YOUR CHURCH WHILE YOU EAT!!

YOU CAN SUPPORT IMMANUEL BY PURCHASING GIFT CARDS FOR
ACME, SHOPRITE, AND GIANT!



AVAILABLE IN \$10 - \$100 DENOMINATIONS!!

**FOR EVERY GIFT CARD WE SELL, WE GET 5% AS A
DONATION TO IMMANUEL!! IT REALLY ADDS UP!!**

TYPICALLY, CARDS ARE AVAIAAILABLE BEFORE AND AFTER WORSHIP
SERVICE.

IF YOU NEED THEM DURING OUR COVID19 CLOSURE, CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR ALEX NARCAVAGE, HE
WILL GET BACK TO YOU.

**PLEASE BUY THE GIFT CARDS AND
HELP OUT IMMANUEL!**



**WE JUST WANT TO
SAY A GREAT
BIG
THANK YOU!**

We want to say **Thank You** to those who have sent in their offerings during this very stressful time as the world deals with the Covid-19 pandemic. Your thoughtfulness and generosity toward church has been wonderful! Even though we are not using the building right now, the electric, gas, and phone bills still come in. We are still able

to pay salaries thanks to the offerings that have come in. Pastor is reaching out through Facebook and other ways. Viola is in the office working to get as much info out to everyone with the bulletins and newsletters. Kathleen is now providing music for a separate posting on Facebook, since she and the pastor are practicing social distancing. Life of the church still goes on – just a little differently and “Virtually” for now.

YOU are enabling Immanuel to continue on our Mission in the name of Jesus the very best we can even during a pandemic.

As mentioned last month, we did apply for the government sponsored “Payroll Protection Plan” through PNC bank. Though we did not get approved in the first wave of the stimulus legislation we did get approved in the second wave and received a deposit on May 5th. However, as many businesses are learning (and so are we), the rules for how to use this are *complicated, sometimes confusing and they are evolving*. We are working with PNC to fully understand the rules. Our intention is diligently use what we can in a way that we do not turn it into a loan which we’d incur interest on and have to pay back. We’ll keep you posted as we go forward.

Let’s do our best with generous support so we can continue our Mission doing God’s Work the best we can (virtually) for now and be ready once allowed to begin to move into the “new normal”.

Speaking of “virtually”, don’t forget if you would like you can sign up for Simply Giving (just contact Jeanne Warner).

Once again..... **Thank You!!**

Sincerely, Your Resource Committee

Jeanne Warner & Karl McClellan (Co-chairs) + Carol Henderson, & Peg Martinsen.

Food Cupboard

Immanuel has a modest food cupboard to help our members and friends cope with limited resources. We cannot advertise this resource too widely, as it is limited...but if you need help with your food cupboard, call the office and leave a message with Vi, our secretary. She will take your phone number and give it to the cupboard volunteers who will prepare a bag for you and make arrangements for pick-up. No need to get close to anyone! If you can't come pick up your food, tell the volunteer and we will arrange a drop off at your residence.



If you want to **donate nonperishable food** to add to our inventory, come to the church (call first - 610-586-5860) during office hours, M-F 9:00 – 1:00, ring the doorbell, tell Vi you have a food donation and when she buzzes you in, leave your donation inside the door to the left.



Ordering from Amazon? Enter AmazonSmile and designate Immanuel to receive a percentage of your purchase. Easy way to help your church!



HOMEBOUND MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

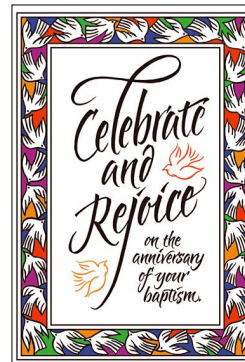
May
13th - Pat Barker

July
4th—Roy Russell

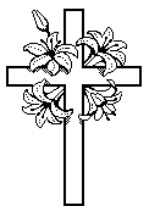


Remembering our Baptisms

<i>June</i>	Kelsey Breslin	Aubrey MacWilliams	Victoria Slotterback
	Irmgard Czymek	Nancy McHugh	Olivia Taylor
	Lydia Grieb	Dave Nagle	
	Amanda Onimus	Robert Narcavage	
<i>July</i>	Karl Grieb	Declan Carney	Harper Watkins
	Laura Hanly	Brooklyn Murphy	
	Darlene McClellan	Cole Harlan	



IN REMEMBRANCE



Pauline Anna Wilson - May 5, 2020

Due to current health restrictions, a memorial service and life celebration will be held at a later date. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

Condolences may be sent to griffithfuneralchapel@verizon.net.

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² 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

LOOKING AHEAD

AUGUST 2020



Due to the fluid situation of COVID-19 we are changing our summer newsletter to only include June & July. Hopefully by July we will have a clearer picture of what the situation is with Vacation Bible School and our annual church picnic as well as any upcoming fall events and gatherings. Until then, please keep up with the most recent church developments as described on page 5 of this newsletter.

Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric

Social Policy Resolution
CA19.04.18



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

RESOLVED, we the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America do hereby resolve and proclaim that:

1. White supremacy is racism and we condemn it;
2. Violent rhetoric against persons of color in the name of so-called "Christian Nationalism" is not a true Christian faith. It is idolatry and we condemn it;
3. The love of God is for all people, without exception, and we proclaim it;
4. The justice and mercy of God are for all people, without exception, and we proclaim this;
5. Our religious and political leaders have a moral responsibility to condemn racist rhetoric and to speak with respect for the innate dignity of all persons, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or faith tradition and we call our leaders to honor this responsibility; and
6. Language that refers to people of color or immigrants with words like "invasion" or "infestation" or "white replacement" is racism and we condemn it;
7. We are called by Jesus to "love our neighbors as ourselves." As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions. With them, we demand and will advocate for a more just, loving, and peaceful world where the gifts of all people are appreciated, and the lives of all people are treasured; and
8. We call all congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in communal study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God.

Story of Transformation

LIFE/SPIRITUAL LESSON: DEFINE SUCCESS INTERNALLY, NOT EXTERNALLY

Amada Rosa Pérez was one of Colombia's most famous supermodels. She worked on shoots in some of the most beautiful places in the world and was used to being lavished with attention, fame and money.

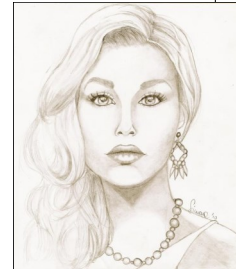
Her career seemed to be on a trajectory that 99.9% of aspiring models only wish they could achieve.

Then, in 2005, at the height of her career, Pérez inexplicably disappeared from the public eye.

People suspected the worst—this was Colombia after all—kidnappings, ransoms, murder, etc. But the truth, as usual, was much stranger than fiction. Perez surfaced five years later and announced that she'd been born again. And she was retiring from modeling to work with the poor communities of Colombia.

She remarked on how her definition of a successful model had changed—drastically so:

“Being a model means being a benchmark, someone whose beliefs are worthy of being imitated, and I grew tired of being a model of superficiality. I grew tired of a world of lies, appearances, falsity, hypocrisy, and deception, a society full of anti-values that exalts violence, adultery, drugs, alcohol, fighting, and a world that exalts riches, pleasure, sexual immorality and fraud. I want to be a model that promotes the true dignity of women instead of being used for commercial purposes.”



Prior to her religious conversion, she said she was always stressed, always in a hurry, always so easily upset over the tiniest of things. “Now I live in peace,” she said. “The world doesn't appeal to me. I enjoy every moment God gives me.”

I totally get Pérez's need for real meaning in her life—for something more than the superficialities of comfort and pleasure. It's a main theme of pretty much all of

Scripture.

I've railed against the all-too-common, toxic ideas in modern culture that more is better and that we can "have it all". Because I don't think happiness is something you should pursue for its own sake. In fact, happiness isn't really the point to begin with, and trying to "feel good" all the time will only make you a miserable mess of a human being.

If you look a little closer, you'll notice that Perez came to have a higher purpose that transcended the typical measures of success.

In almost every material aspect, the world is a better place than it ever has been. But instead of rejoicing in that fact, we're living through a crisis of hope and meaning that threatens to reverse a lot of the progress we've made over the past two centuries or so.

But Amada Rosa Pérez showed us that we can define success in a way that lifts others up, gives us a little peace, and maybe leaves the world a little less messed than it was when we showed up.



And be not conformed
to this
World but be
TRANSFORMED
by the
Renewing
OF
YOUR **MIND**

ROMANS 12:2



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

June/July
2020

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: \$35.00

Contact Fran Fisher at 610.586.3095

Bulletins:

\$20.00

Contact the Church Office for available dates.

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

Envelope No:

Phone