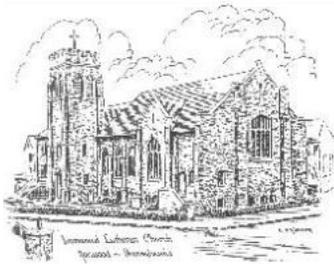


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 2023



Merry
CHRISTMAS



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SHARE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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



Oh Holy Night



DECEMBER 2023



SUNDAY WORSHIP - 11:00 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>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.</p>					<p>1 6:00 PM Bazaar Setup</p>	<p>2 9:00 AM-2:00 PM</p>
<p>3 Advent 1 Poinsettia Sale 10:00 AM Education Hour 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg. W&M Mtg.</p>	4	5	6	<p>7 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	8	<p>9 9:00 AM Manger Setup</p>
<p>10 Advent 2 10:00 AM Education Hour 12:00 PM Outreach Mtg.</p>	11	<p>12 5:30 PM Resource Mtg.</p>	13	<p>14 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	15	<p>16 1:00 PM Healing Service</p>
<p>17 Advent 3 10:00 AM Education Hour 12:00 PM</p>	18	19	20	<p>21 7:00 PM Ministerium “Blue Christmas Service” @ Holy Spirit, Secane.</p>	22	23
<p>24 Advent 4 Christmas Eve 10:00 AM Education Hour 11:00M Cantata 7:00 PM Candlelight Service</p>		26	27	28	29	30
<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>						
<p>31 Lessons & Carols 10:00 AM Education Hour</p>	<p>January 1 New Year’s Day</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>January 2</p>		<p>The LAST DAY for 2023 contributions will be December 31st, 2023.</p>		

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 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 as 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 taught 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*
- *Fran Fisher*
- *Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus*
Vice President
- *Joe Kintsche*
- *Karl McClellan*
- *Joyce Morrison - Secretary*
- *Fred Warner*
- *Don Watts*
- *Robin Woodrow - President*



DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH US!!

WE SELL ACME/SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS! FOR EVERY GIFT CARD WE SELL WE GET 5%!! See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for additional information and the purchase of gift cards. Cash or checks are welcome!



LAST CHANCE~RAISERIGHT/SCRIPT GIFT CARDS ~ 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 or the office.

Last Date that orders will be sent in for purchase

will be Dec 3rd. 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 and see if it is available and add to your list or ask Jeanne Warner and she will check.



RaiseRight™



COME TO IMMANUEL LUTHERAN'S
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, December 2nd
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

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 3rd**. 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



- Ministerium Blue Christmas Service -

Hosted by Holy Spirit, Secane - Thurs., December 21st - 7:00 PM

- Christmas Cantata -

Sun., December 24th - 11:00 AM

- Candlelight Service -

Sun., Dec 24th Christmas Eve - 7:00 PM

- Lessons & Carols -

Sunday, December 31st - 11:00AM



The **Blue Christmas, a Service of Hope for the Holidays**, pays attention to the special needs of people who are "blue", sad or in pain at this holiday time. Local churches are combining efforts to hold this service at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Secane on **December 21, 2023, at 7:00 pm.**

Sometimes these services are called *Longest Night Services*, recognizing that the private night hours are often the most difficult, and the longest night of the year takes place on the winter solstice – this year on December 21. This service blends elements of Christmas worship and the hope that Jesus can give to people who are in pain. This service is open to any individual or family that might find it helpful during the challenging holiday season.

The Greatest Gift of All!

December brings the Advent season and the Christmas miracle when God sent his Son, born in a manger to Mary & Joseph, who would grow to ultimately die for our sins and be raised again on Easter morning. This was the greatest gift ever---the Forgiveness of Sin through Grace-----and the promise of Eternal Life for Us! As we all reflect on our lives and blessings, we need to remember that everything we have came from God's awesome generosity. How will we show our generosity and what will we do with our Time, Talents and Treasure to allow Immanuel's Mission to continue?

You'll be hearing about the "**StewardSheep**" campaign through the Outreach committee. We ask everyone to prayerfully consider your commitment to Immanuel for 2024. When we celebrated our 135th anniversary many contributed generously! Once the bills for the event were paid, the church had \$5700.00 remaining. We are proud that Church Council approved the 135th Committee's motion to start with a tithe and give 10% to the greater church for use across the globe toward our Mission Support's (previously known as Benevolence) annual commitment. Then another \$500.00 off the top to help buy supplies for our "Little Panty" to help those in our local community. The remaining monies will be used in Immanuel's General fund.



What Else Can You Do? Support all of our fund raisers!

- ◆ **RAISERIGHT/SCRIPT Gift Cards**-make your Christmas shopping easy! **Christmas Bazaar** on December 2nd! **Food Gift Coupons!**

Don't Forget the Heating Oil Season is here!



Winter arrives this month. We will spend nearly \$16,000.00 on heating oil this 2023-2024 season. Please take time to meet our Mascot, **SUPER MEER** from Vacation Bible School at the poster in the Hospitality area and while there please take an "OIL" envelope to contribute a little extra if you can.

Make Giving Easy and Automatic. Here are **two ways** you can do that:

1. **Your Bank** - You can set up a monthly cashier's check to be drawn on one of your accounts and mailed to the church. This is a recurring process so you don't have to worry about it! For example Wells Fargo **will help you set this up at no cost to you!** Contact your bank and they can help you set it up.
2. **Tithely** - Consider using the safe, secure, easy virtual method with the QR code with your smart phone. There are also buttons on our website and Facebook pages. Tithely can also set up a recurring, automatic monthly donation using one of your credit cards. There is a nominal fee with this.



"Thank you" to all of you who give of your Time, Talents and Treasures!

Sincerely, Your Resource Committee

2023 StewardSheep

No, that's not a typo! Immanuel has chosen our relationship with Jesus as the good shepherd and our roles as his flock to seek your commitment to Immanuel for 2024. We all know many bible stories that include sheep and shepherds. The Good Shepherd, our Lord, loves every member of his flock and takes care of us. In turn, we, as believers, should be caring for each other. How do we demonstrate that caring? Our congregation states each Sunday that we are "claimed, gathered and sent by God to live Christ's example through worship, education and service."



At our baptism, we learned that Jesus says, "I have called you by name, you are mine." As his lambs, all our needs will be met by our shepherd. Let's consider how we can help the Lord take care of our fellow believers and our community.

On Sunday, December 3 we will ask all worshippers to complete two items. You will receive a small paper sheep on which you will write your name. This sheep will be added to a bulletin board in the hospitality area which commemorates all the "sheep" of Immanuel. You will also receive a form where you will confirm your commitment of time, skills, and money to support the mission of Immanuel in 2024. We will take a few minutes to complete both these items in the pew before the last hymn. Please give your commitment prayerful consideration.



Immanuel's 135th Memory Cross Project continues. Get Your Sticks in!

The spirit of God has been flowing through Immanuel Lutheran Church for 135 years and with that passage of time many, many wonderful memories, blessings and milestones have been created! We are doing something as part of our 135th celebration to capture your memories in a lasting way. We are going to build a Memory cross! It will be made up of multicolor craft sticks on which members have written their family names, memories, milestones, activities, events, blessings, etc. It will look something like this:

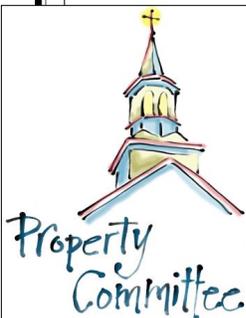


We started this at the 135th anniversary luncheon. We will continue in the coming months. On the Hospitality table a basket of 6" multicolor craft sticks and a "Sharpie". Please take a few minutes on Sunday to write down your own special memories. Look for the basket where we will be collecting the craft sticks. We are also having our Eucharistic Ministers take a kit to our shut-ins so they can participate too! Later we will assemble our Memory Cross.

Let us know if you have any questions about this.

Thank you! Karl McClellan on behalf of the 135th Anniversary Committee

Property made it through the summer lawn cutting season with the “HELP” of Karl McClellan. Now our attention moves to winter weather and the possibility of snow. We were very thankful that this past winter season we did not have to worry about clearing the sidewalks of snow. Property is asking for help with snow removal once the dreaded white stuff begins to fall and accumulate. Please touch base with Fred Warner if you are interested in helping with sidewalk clearing.



Everyone is aware of Immanuel’s heating oil cost increase. Help us conserve oil by not adjusting thermostats and keep doors closed eliminating drafts that may influence thermostats. Please consider donating to the Oil Fund. Envelopes can be found in the Hospitality Area.

Property continues to need your help with replenishing our housekeeping supplies. When you do your grocery shopping, please consider picking up an item or two. Items may be placed on the card table located in the Hospitality Area. We are always in need of building/maintenance supplies and very appreciative to the congregation for your continued donations. Below is a list of the items that we most often need to keep our supply cabinet full:

Paper Towels	Liquid Dishwashing Detergent	Window Cleaner
Liquid Hand Soap	Facial Tissue (Kleenex)	Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Furniture Polish	Pine-Sol	Toilet Paper
Trash Bags (33 to 45 gallon)		

Chance to help! We will be putting up our **manger scene on the front lawn and setting up our Christmas tree on Saturday December 9th starting at 9:00 AM.** 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. Tentatively the Manger “take-down” is planned for Sat. January 6th starting at 9:00AM.



Immanuel's 135th Celebration "Thank You" and Your Year End Statement

We certainly felt the spirit of God flowing through Immanuel Lutheran Church on October 22nd as we celebrated our 135th Anniversary. This was due, in a large part, to those members of our congregation who were able to participate in and/or contribute to the event. We are grateful for that generosity which will certainly help our efforts to keep Immanuel's mission in our community moving forward.

you
are
awesome

One of the pieces of our celebration was a Power Point presentation of photographs from our 135 years. We have made a link to that available on our website under the "Worship" tab, along with some photos from October 22nd. We hope that you visit our web site and enjoy these at: www.immanuelnorwood.org

For those of you who made a donation, please know that the 135th will be shown as a separate line item on your year-end giving statement. That statement will serve as receipt of your contribution for federal income taxation purposes. Immanuel Lutheran Church is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to organizations with 501(c)(3) status may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor to determine deductibility of this contribution in light of any luncheon tickets you may have used, which were valued at \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children.

For questions about this, please contact our church office at 610-586-5860.

Sincerely,

The 135th Anniversary Committee: Pastor Scott Lee, Sylvia Hunsberger and Karl McClellan

Happy December! Social Ministry would like to thank everyone who helped out with the bazaar this year. Without everyone's help, this event would not be a success. Soup makers, cookie makers, Stromboli makers and crafters, you are appreciated. Those that volunteered to man the tables, it wouldn't happen without you.

Those that helped make the cemetery sprays or ordered them thank you. They were made with love in our hearts for your loved ones. With that all said and done, may your holiday be filled with peace, love and joy! Happy Holidays, Social Ministry

THANK
YOU



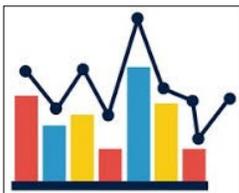
Holidays are for Sharing! Let's remember our neighbors as we prepare for Christmas. Please pick up some extra food items when you do your own shopping for our Little Food Pantry. You can purchase grocery gift cards in smaller denominations for our congregation to give to others, which allows those folks 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. (Food items in bags and boxes should be placed in the bin – saves them from the fall invasion of mice!) Grocery gift cards can be purchased from Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus and given to any Outreach Committee member. (Jean Crane, Colleen Kelly, Margaret (Pie) Fagan, Karl McClellan, Joyce Morrison)



Half Century Fellowship Lunch Group will not meet in the month of December. Pack a lunch and join us on the 3rd Wednesday of January, the 17th, at noon for good company, conversation and fellowship. Hope to see you there!



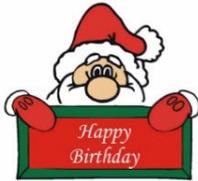
CONGREGATION STATISTICS

	Members Removed	Members Added	Avg. Weekly Attendance	Avg. YTD Attendance
Oct.	0	0	37	30

THE POWER OF PRAYER

- ♥ Rita Petty
- ♥ Catherine Scheid
- ♥ Barb Calciano
- ♥ Flossie Cora
- ♥ Pat Bonner
- ♥ Amy Williams
- ♥ Eleanor Kephart
- ♥ Jim Mullin
- ♥ Allen & Grace Bradley
- ♥ Theresa Daniels
- ♥ Marie Parnell
- ♥ Florence Grantland
- ♥ Gerry Fulmer
- ♥ Bob Moore
- ♥ Art Hunter
- ♥ Cheryl Woodrow
- ♥ Susan Hornberger
- ♥ Prayers for Peace





HOMEBOUND MEMBERS BIRTHDAY

Carol Hendrickson ~ December 28th

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



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.

Committee Chairs ~ 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.



Visit our website:

www.immanuelnorwood.org

Like 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

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

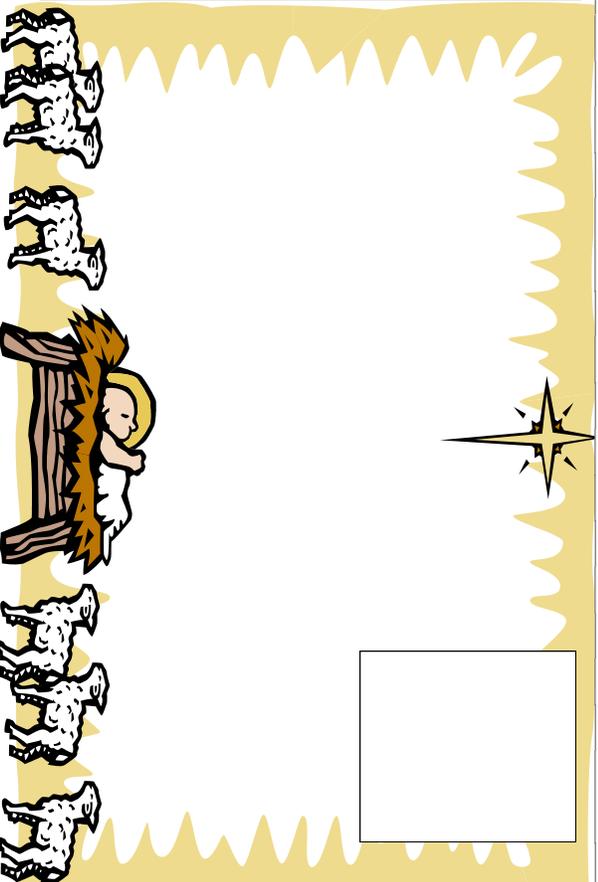
Church Office Hours

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



We are a
RECONCILING in CHRIST
Congregation

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