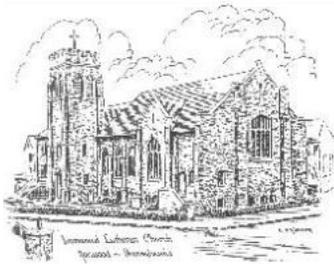


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2024



SHARE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

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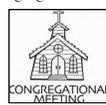
www.immanuelnorwood

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 11:00 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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.

	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6 Manger & Tree take down.
7 10:00 AM Education Hr 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg. Worship & Music Mtg.	8	9 5:30 PM Resource Mtg.	10	11 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	12	13
14 10:00 AM Education Hr 12:00 PM Outreach Mtg.	15	16	17 12:00 PM Half Century	18 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	19	20 1:00 PM Healing Service 
21 10:00 AM Education Hr 12:00 PM Council Mtg 	22	23	24	25 7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)	26	27
28 10:00 AM Education Hr 12:00 PM Congregational Mtg. 	29	30	31	<p>Call the church office or follow us on Facebook for the status of worship service during inclement weather.</p> 		

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2024

PASTOR'S PEN

In the church year, January 6th, the Epiphany our Lord, marks the transition from the 12 days of Christmas to the season of Epiphany. We recall how the light of the star led the magi to the Christ child, and we celebrate how Jesus is the light of the world. That theme of light for the nations continues this Sunday readings of Epiphany, culminating in the transfiguration of our Lord, which celebrates Christ transfigured in glory



on the mountain top. Another prominent theme for Epiphany is the church's mission just as Christ is the light of the world, so we are sent to bear his light to others. During our baptismal liturgy, the newly baptized person was presented with a lighted candle while the assisting minister reads these words "let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven". This verse is also the basis for the familiar spiritual "this little light of mine".

One day, we too will be transformed in glory, our faces brightly shining like the sun. Until that day, our marching orders are to bring some light into the dark places all around us. So how do we let our light shine? Tell all others what God has done for you. Sing your praises. Feed the hungry. Welcomed the stranger. Walk with those who are different until they become friends. Love your enemy. Forgive, and forgive some more. Seek out the most vulnerable ones. Give cheerfully. Pray boldly. Tell the story. Listen to someone who is hurting. Testify to the hope that is within you. There are as many ways to shine Christ's light as there are stars in the sky.

This Epiphany season, I invite you to join me in praying for the mission and ministry of Immanuel.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Lee

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*



Little Free Pantry

Have you noticed? It's WINTER! Please think about those without enough food to eat and place items in our pantry. Let's provide hearty, warm winter foods. We do need to adjust to the weather, so please, no glass containers that might freeze. If

thank
you!

our pantry is full, items can be placed inside the Chester Pike door on the left. We don't want mice to ruin our groceries, so place bags and boxes in the plastic bins. You can bring donations on Sunday morning or the church secretary can buzz you in the door during office hours, 9:00 – 1:00 most weekdays, except holidays.



Half Century Fellowship Lunch Group is back in January!

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!

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 to collect your "sticks" until **Ash Wednesday, February 14th, 2024**. We will then build our cross with the hope to have it done by Easter. 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



HELP YOUR CHURCH WHILE YOU EAT!!

WE SELL ACME/SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS!!!



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

FOR EVERY GIFT CARD WE SELL, **WE GET 5%!!**

Please see Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus on Sundays to purchase gift cards. Cash or checks are welcome!

PLEASE BUY THE GIFT CARDS AND HELP OUT IMMANUEL!



FUNDRAISER FOLLOW-UP ~ Thank you for supporting our Fund Raisers: Boscov's made \$85.00, Pampered Chef made just over \$153; Raise Right made \$283; Bazaar made \$2,000 and wreaths \$600. Without your support we would not been able to do this.

Manger Take Down. On Saturday January 6th we will take down our **Manger Scene** and also our **Christmas tree**. Gathering for snacks will be at 8:30 AM with the work starting at 9AM.
Thank you to anyone that can lend a hand!



Volunteers Needed!



Visit our website: www.immanuelnorwood.org
Like us on Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood
Send us your email address:
secretary.immanuel@verizon.net
Church Office hours 9am-1pm
Answering machine: 610-586-5860

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**IT'S A
NEW
YEAR!**

2024 is here! Start the New Year with a resolution to appreciate all the blessings you have received! We need to remember that everything we have comes from God's awesome generosity. Let us in 2024 show our generosity through what will we do with our **Time, Talents and Treasure** to allow Immanuel's Mission to continue! A **BIG Thank you** to the Outreach committee for the "StewardSheep" campaign. Now it is up to us.

What Else Can You Do?

- ◆ Follow through with your 2024 "*Stewardsheep*" commitments! (If you did not yet respond with your commitment card please do. And be sure *your sheep* gets turned in to be in the Immanuel pasture).
- ◆ Attend and vote at the Annual meeting. Our 2024 Budget will be presented.
- ◆ Support all of our fund raisers especially the ongoing *Food Gift Coupons*!
- ◆ Don't forget our "PPP" loan (from the pandemic days) we still have payments of \$300.00 s month for another couple of years. Contributions toward this are greatly appreciated!

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.



Heating Oil Season is here!

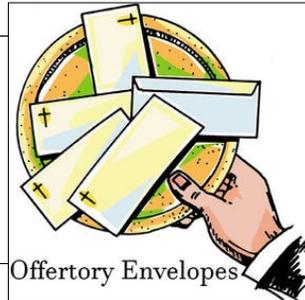


Please take time to meet our Mascot, **SUPER MEER** from Vacation Bible School at the poster in the Hospitality area and while there please take an "OIL" envelope to contribute a little extra if you can.

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

Sincerely, Your Resource Committee

2024 envelopes can be found on the table in the back of the church. To make other arrangements, or to pick up during the week, please call the office at 610.586.5860



Offertory Envelopes

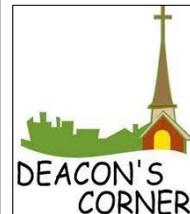


**Sunday Morning
Adult Study**

Adult Bible Study - Sunday mornings at 10:00am to 10:45am. We began a new series which is titled "Happiness". **It is a video Bible Study.** It's not too late to join in! We meet in the choir room.

We have great discussions and welcome all. Any questions, please ask Jeanne Warner or Joyce Morrison. Hope to see you Sunday mornings.

Joe and I want to let our church family know that we are here for you. If you need to talk with us - please contact us. With the new year upon us let us rededicate our lives to Jesus and to help maintain the Lord's House. Have a happy and safe New Year! The Deacons, Joe and Mary Lyn.



JANUARY 28th

**FOLLOWING THE
11:00 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE**
(Severe weather date Feb. 11th)

Enjoy and Give Thanks for Immanuel Nativity Scene and Christmas Tree!



Some of our team from December 9th who helped with the manger.



Enjoying the tree! Colleen, McKenzie, and her Mom, Crystal.



Celebrating 72 years!

Our Nativity scene will celebrate its 72nd birthday this year! The first year the manger was displayed was 1951. It was an idea that was suggested by Immanuel's Sister Zedena and from there it became a project embraced by many in our congregation and people in the community.

- The lumber to build the manger came from the old Norwood railroad station.
- The painting of the figures was done by Mrs. Fred Hazel who was an accomplished artist of the day.
- The first year the scene had the baby Jesus, Mary, a chicken and a squirrel. Then over the next several years they added Joseph, the donkey, sheep, the angel and the window. (Sadly the original chicken and squirrel have escaped!).
- Due to the labors of love to mend and erect the manger it continues to bring the Christmas spirit to Norwood

So as you walk by this Christmas season please take a few minutes to pause and enjoy the scene. Say a little prayer of "Thanks" to those folks who, 72 years ago, had a dream and made our manger come to life! Also take time this Advent season to come and really look at our tree and all those decorations made by hand over the years.

It sure is amazing what committed Lutherans can accomplish! Speaking of what we can do when we work together, this year we combined efforts to put up the manger, the Christmas tree and decorate the church on Saturday December 9th. We had over 20 people involved! Fellowship and excellent team work resulted in a fun and productive day!

My "Thanks" to all those who helped with supplies, putting up the manger, the tree and decorating the church, including: Janice & Joe Kintsche, Joan & Patrick Paglia, Jeanne & Fred Warner, Judy & Bob Firkser, Robin Woodrow, Amy & Ben Graham, Pastor Lee, Dave, Nick, Hannah & Jackson Firkser, Fran Fisher, Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus, Colleen Kelly & Darlene McClellan.

We'll be taking the manger & tree down on January 6th, 2024 starting at 8:30 am if you'd like to help out.

I wish a Merry Christmas
and Blessed New Year to all!!

Sincerely, Karl McClellan



Come Join Immanuel's weekly "Virtual" Bible Study on Thursdays at 7PM.!

Our **Virtual Bible study** on **Thursday** evenings is back for the New Year after a "Christmas break" beginning on January 11, 2024! We started this during the pandemic so that people can stay safe at home but also gather (remotely) to learn more about the Bible. This provides **one of two** Bible study options at Immanuel with the other being **In Person** on Sunday mornings at 10AM (see information about that in another part of this newsletter). You are welcome to join either or both as we cover different topics. The **Thursday** night **Virtual Bible study** will be using selections from the "Life Guide" bible study series. All you need is your Bible and we'll provide the discussion questions when we "connect". Sessions will be led by Karl McClellan and Fred Warner. The sessions are fun, educational and thought provoking! They provide a great way to learn more about the Bible while sharing **how Jesus shows up in our lives today!**

Simply go to our web site: www.immanuelnorwood.org, then click the tab at the top for "Church Calendar" then scroll down to "Thursday Evening Bible Study" for the link and also dial in options. Please join us if you can!

Any questions please see Karl McClellan or Fred Warner, Co-Leaders of "Zoom" Bible Study. **Thank you and hope you can join us!**



CRISIS PHONE LINE 855-889-7827

The holidays are full of emotion, many joys but many challenges for individuals and families. A phone help line is available from the Delaware County Crisis Connections Team. If you know a family with a holiday crisis...**please share!**

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - Dial 988 from any phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for free and confidential support.

Crisis Text Line - Text HOME to 741741 for 24/7 support with a crisis counselor via text message



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

† Frederick Warner

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
 - ♥ Rylee Monahan

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR AVOIDING MISERY

Choose to love—rather than hate. ~ Choose to smile—rather than frown.
 Choose to build—rather than destroy. ~ Choose to persevere—rather than quit.
 Choose to praise—rather than gossip. ~ Choose to heal—rather than wound.
 Choose to give—rather than take. ~ Choose to act—rather than delay.
 Choose to forgive—rather than curse. ~ Choose to pray—rather than despair.



CONGREGATION STATISTICS

	Members Removed	Members Added	Avg. Weekly Attendance	Avg. YTD Attendance
Nov.	0	0	36	30



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

610.586-5860

Church Office Hours

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



We are a
RECONCILING in CHRIST
Congregation



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.

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

Envelope No:

Phone