



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

November 2025

Pastor's Pen



Dear friends in Christ,

We live in a time when political voices grow louder than the voice of the Gospel. Every election season, every national debate, every news headline seems to demand that we pick a side, pledge our loyalty, and defend it passionately. It's tempting — even comforting — to align ourselves with leaders who promise safety, prosperity, or moral renewal. But as followers of Jesus, we must be cautious. There is a deep spiritual danger in following political leaders more closely than we follow Christ.

Throughout Scripture, God's people were warned about misplaced allegiance. When Israel asked for a king "like the other nations," God's warning was clear: human power always tempts toward pride, injustice, and idolatry. Political leaders — even well-meaning ones — are not saviors. They cannot bear the weight of our hope, nor can they embody the fullness of God's justice and mercy.

Jesus never sought political power. He refused to be made king by the crowd, choosing instead the path of the cross. His kingdom is not of this world, yet it transforms this world through love, humility, and truth. When we follow Christ, our loyalty is not to a flag, a party, or a personality — it is to the crucified and risen Lord who calls us to love our enemies, seek peace, and serve the least among us.

Church Staff

Rev. Scott R. Lee *Pastor*

Kathleen Schneider

Director of Music

Patricia Clerico

Secretary

Church Council

Jean Crane

Fran Fisher

Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus

Colleen Kelly *President*

Joe Kintsche

Karl McClellan

Joyce Morrison, *Secretary*

Fred Warner

Jeanne Warner, *Treasurer*

Don Watts, *Vice President*

Immanuel Lutheran Church

501 Chester Pike

Norwood, PA 19074

610-586-5860

Immanuelnorwood.org

As disciples, our witness suffers when our politics define our faith rather than our faith shaping our politics. When we demonize those who disagree, when we trade compassion for ideology, when we speak more passionately about political figures than about Jesus — we risk forgetting who we are and whose we are.

This doesn't mean withdrawing from civic life. We are called to pray for our leaders, vote our conscience, and work for justice. But we must always do so as people shaped by the Gospel, not by partisan identity. Our highest allegiance is to the One who wore a crown of thorns, not a crown of power.

So, in this heated season, I invite you to pause. Spend more time in prayer than on punditry. Let Scripture guide your words more than social media. And remember: the kingdom of God will not arrive on any ballot, but in hearts transformed by grace.

In Christ,

Pastor Lee

Pastor.immanuelnorwood@gmail.com



Sponsor Bulletins and/or Newsletters: Call Patty Clerico, Secretary, at the church office. Let her know the dedication and when you would like to sponsor. The cost is \$20 for each publication.

Half Century Fellowship Lunch Group ~ Pack a lunch and join us Thursday, **November 20th** at noon downstairs at church for good company, conversation and fellowship.



The Little Food Pantry

During Thanksgiving month, please purchase a little extra food when you shop for your feast. Our neighbors will appreciate your thoughtfulness. Remember that you can place your food right into the pantry, or bring it into the church and place it to the left of the Chester Pike entry door. During the week, the secretary can buzz you in during office hours, 9 am to 1 pm, Mon – Fri.

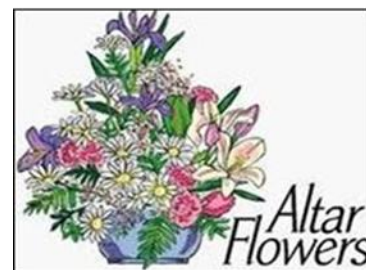


We have a monthly **Healing Service** September through May. The service is the **third Saturday of each month** and is a laying on of hands healing service. It is from **1pm-2pm**. The actual service itself will take about 30 minutes followed with some quiet time if people want to stay and pray. If cancelled due to the weather, the church phone greeting will tell you. 610-586-5960



Acme/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 cost of the coupons. Help us help our church!** See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for details.

Sponsor Altar Flowers! Call Fran Fisher at 610.586.3095 with the details of when you would like to sponsor the altar flowers, and the wording of dedication you would like to appear in the Sunday bulletin for that day. Spruce up the Altar!! Flowers are \$30.



Cars, Coffee and Christ!

Our 4th and final "CCC" for 2025 will be November 22nd! Remember these events are open to everyone...you don't need to bring a special car; just come and enjoy food Christian fellowship (and delicious snacks)! Any questions or suggestions please see me! Thanks, Karl McClellan

CARS, COFFEE & CHRIST

HOSTS: Immanuel, Norwood and St. Matthew, Woodlyn
Lutheran Churches in St. Matthew's Parking Lot



SATURDAY from 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
November 22, 2025

BRING SOMETHING TO SHOW, OR JUST COME FOR THE COFFEE!

GPS: 160 Fairview Road, Woodlyn, Pa. 19094

For more information - Karl McClellan
krmcfamily@aol.com
610-761-4804



www.immanuelnorwood.org
www.stmatthewlutheranwoodlyn.org

RESOURCE REVIEW

Give Thanks to the Lord Our God!

It's Thanksgiving month!! The time when we gather to give thanks for all the blessings we have received. The greatest of all these blessings is the unimaginable generosity of God for sending his Son Jesus Christ to die for us on the cross and take away our sins. This gift, that we need to accept in order to get to heaven is truly the greatest show of His love ever! As we reflect on blessings we have received, we should ask ourselves "What can we do to pass on this generosity and to support our church's mission here in our community?" During November we will all be asked to consider this during the Outreach Committee's **Stewardship Campaign**. Please prayerfully consider what you are currently giving.....and as you will see...try to make a "Step Up".

So How Can We Show Our Generosity ?

- Do our best to give regularly .If you miss a week, please try to make it up. Support all our fund raisers, especially the ongoing ***Food Gift Coupons....and Pampered Chef, Raise-Rite, Our Christmas Bazaar, the Christmas Cemetery Decoration Sale and more.....!***
- **Make giving easy and automatic!** Consider this...there are **two ways** you can do this:
 - #1. **Your Bank** >>>>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 below 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.





Property Committee is leading the effort to get a plan to repair our Air Conditioning system. We'll share the full plan that once it is figured out. If you would like to contribute toward this, please put your donation in an envelope and just write **AC** and your envelope number on the outside.

Our 2025-2026 Heating Oil budget is underway costing \$1300./month plus the Maintenance contract. **Scout** is asking that our members do their best to contribute monthly a little extra using **the OIL envelopes you'll find at the BRIGHT YELLOW Heating Oil Campaign poster** board located in the Hospitality area.



ENVELOPES!!!

If you did not get a box of envelopes in 2025, and would like one for 2026, please see Jeanne Warner to obtain one.

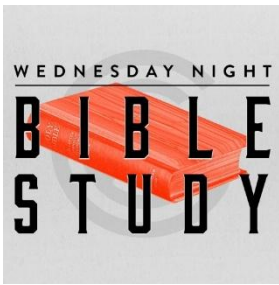


Sincerely, Your Resource Committee: Karl McClellan, Jeanne Warner & Sandy Hendrick



NATIVITY SCENE AND CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE HELP NEEDED

On **Saturday, November 29th**, the church Christmas tree and Nativity scene will be put up. Gathering begins with **snacks at 8:30AM** and the work begins at **9AM**. For further information or questions, please contact **Karl McClellan at 610 761 4804**. Thank you to everyone that can lend a hand!



Weekly Virtual Bible Study on Wednesdays!

Join us via zoom for Bible study on Wednesdays; 7:00 to 8:00 PM for a series on Luke: How Do You Respond to Jesus? All you need is your Bible and we'll provide the discussion questions when we connect. Study Guides are available in the mailboxes in the coat room- in the left-hand lower corner you'll find "Zoom Bible" with copies for that week in a folder. Karl McClellan and Fred Warner lead sessions. You may join at any time! Just go to our website: www.immanuelnorwood.org and click on the Church Calendar tab, then scroll to the ZOOM LINK FOR WEEKNIGHT BIBLE STUDY. You can use your phone to connect. dial one of the numbers below at the start of the event. Use the numbers below when you are prompted.

Dial In Numbers: +1 646 931 3860 or +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 897 7827 9740 Passcode: 952485

We hope you will join us!! Any questions please see our leaders, Karl McClellan or Fred Warner

Wednesday Mornings at St. Matthew's **in person with Pastor Lee at 9:00AM –**

9:45AM. What does God teach us about himself through the wonders of

creation? How do the lives of the people he fashioned glorify him and further his eternal purposes?

This six-session series offers a big-picture view of the foundational book of Genesis, exploring the splendor of creation and the significance of God's work in the lives of flawed yet faithful men and women. And while it tells of fascinating people experiencing transformational events, Genesis continually points us back to their God and ours, the Creator.





Remembering our Baptisms November 2025

Emily Narcavage

Nicholas Firsker

Adrienne Narcavage

Jeanne Warner

Elsie Campbell

Charles Rodgers

Kimberly Enriquez

The Power of Prayer

Thank you for including the following individuals in your daily prayers.

Amy Williams

Eleanor Kephart

Barbara Calciano

Marie Parnell

Art Hunter

Steve

Sylvia Hunsberger

Frank Otto

Baby Caden

Joan Truman

Kathleen Cirucci

Crystal Gaglione

Gina & Jamie Monteleone

Family and Friends of Steve King

Comfort to those enduring hardships.

People and their families battling cancer

All those waiting for organ transplants

Peace around the world

Gerhart Urban

Chris Baker

Alfino

Peggy Coleman



Prayer List

Do you have anyone that needs a little extra prayer at this time ? Have you added someone to the prayer list that has received their benefit from our extra prayers ? If you have anyone to add to the prayer list or someone that may be removed at this time, please call Patty to update the list at 610-586-5860 or email at immanuellutheran.norwood@gmail.com .



Christmas is coming! Our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Dec. 6! Mark your calendars now. To prepare for the event, Social Ministry is looking for helpers. It's a wonderful opportunity to socialize with your fellow members. **When you come for the evening activities, the Chester Pike door will be unlocked.** If you don't know where the craft room is located, call Mary Lyn at 610-888-2579. She'll send someone to guide you to the craft room in the basement of the education wing.



Crafting: Thursdays at 6:00 pm in the craft room. No talent or experience is necessary. Just come and one of our experienced crafters will walk you through the steps to make crafts for sale.

Strombolis: Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the kitchen. Our experienced cooks will walk you through the steps!



SHARE CHRISTMAS LOVE WITH FAIR ACRES RESIDENTS

Beth Funk, of the Outreach Committee, is coordinating our participation in the **Giving Tree program at Fair Acres**. She has received some resident gift requests, **valued at \$25 or less**. If you would like to provide a gift, see her on Sunday morning or call her at 610-521-3051.





It's time to start getting those holiday gifts and this is a great way to get something for everyone and support Immanuel. Don't forget to pick up a little something for yourself. You have been very good this year. There are items to help with cooking, baking, and simple things to make kitchen tasks easy, and maybe even fun. There are even pantry items like cake and bread mixes as well as seasonings. Available for every budget. The sale official starts November 3rd, but you can shop earlier using the below link.



<https://www.pamperedchef.com/go/givethanks1125>

There will be order forms at the back of the church and brochures at the beginning of the sale. Help is available with ordering and saving on shipping as well. Sale ends November 17th and will arrive in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For any questions or concerns, please contact Colleen Kelly.

RAISE RIGHT

Ready to start your Christmas shopping? Maybe stock up on restaurants for a night out? Immanuel is selling gift cards for just about every store you may want. Our church will get a percentage back from sales. Forms are available on the table in the hospitality area. Fill out form, make your check payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and hand in to Jeanne Warner or the office. Dates that orders will be sent in for purchase will be **Nov 14, and Dec 7.** Gift cards usually arrive within a week of ordering. Don't see a store you need? You may search online at: www.raiseright.com and add it to your list or ask Jeanne W. and she will check if will be available.

Christmas Cantata!



Our **Christmas Cantata** this year will be on **Sunday, December 22nd at the 11:00 AM** service. If you want to sing, join us. If you want to play an instrument, join us. All are welcome and encouraged. Please see or call Kathleen at 484-239-9393.



Holiday Bazaar is almost upon us! **Saturday December 6th from 9AM- 2PM** Holiday foods are available – Homemade Christmas cookies will be prepackaged in small quantities but still available for you to select your favorites by the pound. There will also be homemade baked goods, as well as a variety of soups in mason jars (please keep refrigerated until ready to consume!); and don't forget to pick up the stromboli, ready to heat and eat!



SANTA EXPRESS!

Santa and his back drop of a toy train display and tree will be available for families to take their own pictures, from 11AM – 12 PM at the Christmas Bazaar.



FLUFFY BLESSINGS!



November Events at Immanuel

Sunday November 2

10:00 Education Hour
11:00 Worship
12:00 Music and Worship Meeting

Tuesday November 4

6:00pm Stromboli Making

Wednesday November 5

9:00 – 9:45 Bible Study @ St.
Matthew, Woodlyn
7:00PM -9:00PM Zoom Bible Study

Thursday November 6

6:00pm Craft Making

Sunday –November 9

10:00 Christian Ed
11:00 Worship
12:00 Outreach Meeting

Tuesday – November 11

2:15PM Resource Committee Mtg
6:00PM Stromboli Making

Wednesday November 12

9:00 – 11:00 Bible Study @ St.
Matthew, Woodlyn
7:00PM -9:00PM Zoom Bible Study

Thursday November 13

6:00pm Craft Making

Sunday –November 16

10:00 Christian Ed
11:00 Worship
12:00 Council Meeting

Tuesday November 18

6:00pm Craft Making

Wednesday November 19

9:00 – 9:45 Bible Study @ St.
Matthew, Woodlyn
7:00PM -9:00PM Zoom Bible Study

Thursday November 20

1200 Half Century Lunch
6:00pm Craft Making

Sunday –November 23

10:00 Christian Ed
11:00 Worship

Tuesday November 25

6:00pm Stromboli Making

Wednesday November 26

9:00 – 9:45 Bible Study @ St.

Matthew, Woodlyn

7:00PM -9:00PM Zoom Bible Study

Thursday November 27

OFFICE CLOSED

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !



Sunday November 30

10:00 Christian Ed

11:00 Worship



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Norwood,PA19074

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