

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

October 2026



Pastor's Pen

As summer begins to wind down and our routines slowly return, it is a wonderful time to welcome one another back to church. Vacations, family gatherings, busy schedules, and time away are all important parts of life—but there is also something special about coming home.

Church is more than a place we come on Sunday morning. It is a community where we gather, worship, learn, serve, encourage one another, and discover again and again that we are not walking through life alone.

As we begin a new season together, I invite you to consider how you might become more involved in the life of our congregation.

Come worship with us. There is something powerful about gathering together as the body of Christ. Our voices, prayers, stories, joys, and even our struggles become part of a larger story of faith. Whether you have been away for a few weeks or simply haven't been to worship in a while, we would love to see you.

Come learn with us. Bible study gives us an opportunity to slow down, ask questions, wrestle with Scripture, and discover how God's Word speaks to our lives today. You don't need to be a biblical scholar or have all the answers. Come with your questions, your curiosity, and your faith. We learn from Scripture—and we learn from one another.

Church Staff

Rev. Scott R. Lee *Pastor*

Kathleen Schneider

Director of Music

Patricia Clerico

Secretary

Church Council

Jean Crane

Kari Dukes

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

Come serve with us. Throughout the year there are opportunities to reach beyond the walls of our congregation and make a difference in the lives of others. Our outreach projects remind us that the church is called not simply to gather, but to go. A small act of kindness, a helping hand, a donation, a visit, or simply showing up can become a meaningful expression of God's love.

And perhaps most importantly, come and be part of the community. You may have gifts you haven't had the opportunity to share. You may have an idea for a ministry or outreach project. You may simply have time to offer or a willingness to help. Every person has something valuable to contribute to the life of the church.

Jesus didn't call us to follow him alone. He called us into community—to love one another, to encourage one another, and to serve our neighbors. The church becomes stronger and more vibrant when each of us finds a way to participate.

I look forward to seeing you in worship and discovering together what the coming months will bring. May God continue to bless our congregation, our community, and each person who walks through our doors.

Welcome back! We have missed you, and there is a place for you here.

Pastor Lee

Pastor.immanuelnorwood@gmail.com

SPECIAL NOTE: If you attend church and are not able to come forward for communion for any reason, and you still wish to receive, Pastor will bring communion to you. Please speak with him for arrangements.





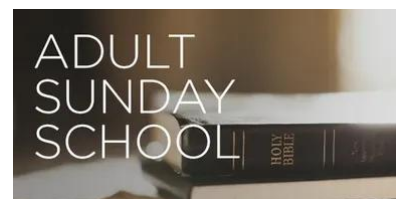
In person weekly Bible Study at St. Matthew's Woodlyn with Pastor Lee, is held weekly on Wednesdays, **9:30 AM – 10:30AM** and will cover Sacred Wounds.

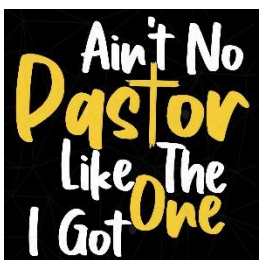
Sacred Wounds is an invitation to meet God in the places we often try to avoid. In this series, Dakota Hauck guides viewers through a biblical and honest exploration of pain, suffering, and healing, revealing how God does not waste our wounds but transforms them into places of beauty, goodness, and truth. Rather than offering easy answers, this study creates space for lament, hope, and deeper trust in Jesus, helping participants discover how suffering can become a sacred place of formation rather than a sign of God's absence



ZOOM Bible study, on Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM for one hour,. All you need is your Bible and we'll provide the discussion questions when we connect. You'll find the link on our website and how to dial in if that's what you prefer. Sessions are led by Karl McClellan and Fred Warner. Our topic will come from **Right Now Media!** 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!** We hope you will join us!

Adult Sunday School is held **at 10:00am, each Sunday in the choir room**. We recently began a new study- "What is the Trinity" when we will be discussing the relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit Feel free to join us! Any questions, please see Jeanne Warner.





October is Minister Appreciation Month

We all forget to say “Thank You” to folks who serve us as part of their work responsibilities. Pastors have a special relationship to their jobs...both they and their congregations pray for guidance as they consider whether God is calling the candidate to support their congregation. Pastor Lee was called to serve Immanuel in December of 2016. It will soon be ten years! It would be lovely if each member could thank Pastor this month – a few words as you shake hands or a card or note would be greatly appreciated.



Celebrating Our Baptisms

Hank Eberle
Sandra Hendrick
Hannah Firkser
Judith Firkser

Thomas Grantland
Sylvia Hunsberger
Landon Grieb



Boscov's shopping event! 25% off lowest sale price on Wednesday October 21, 2026, shopping hours 8AM – 11PM in store AND online. Immanuel receives \$5.00 for each pass purchased! Please contact Mary Lyn at (610)888-2579 for details.



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.

The Little Food Pantry Cooler weather means thinking about **our neighbors and their families who need our help**. Please provide **some nonperishable food (in non glass containers)** for the Pantry. Our **neighbors and their pets** 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. Or you may use the link below to order some approved items for our little pantry from Amazon. Thank you for your help.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/owner-view/1P5SBOQ5TNWF4>

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 goes from **1pm-2pm**. The actual service itself will take about 30 minutes followed with some quiet time if people want to stay and pray



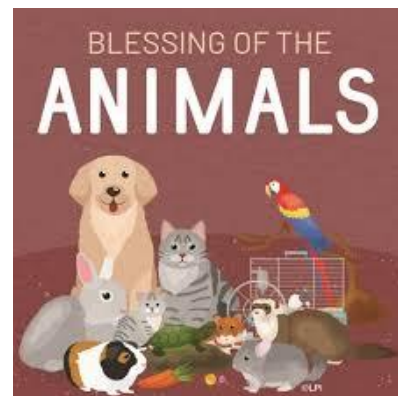
***Diakon** A social service of our local SEPA Synod, Diakon assists families (referred by Children and Youth Services) in providing adequate care for their children. They also facilitate the reunification of families when children return from foster care. The Outreach Committee has provided a bin in the hospitality area for donations to their work. As of this printing, donations of new or very gently used baby and children's clothing and baby supplies (but not diapers, they have a source for that) would be gratefully accepted. We will coordinate with the staff of Diakon as needs change. Watch the weekly bulletin for updates.

Brown Bag Lunch Club!



The Brown Bag Lunch Club continues on **Thursday, October 15th** in the social hall at 12:00pm. Bring your own lunch and join others for lively discussion and fellowship!

Calling all furry, fluffy, scaly, feathered and hooved friends! On Sunday, **October 11th**, worship will include a **Blessing of the Animals**. **Services will be held downstairs in the social hall.** Worshipers, adults and children, are invited to bring their pets (or a photo) or favorite stuffed animal. There will **not** be communion this week and the blessing will take place during the service. All live animals must be on a leash or in a carrier.



The Power of Prayer

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

Amy Williams	Eleanor Kephart	Joanne P
Barbara Calciano	Marie Parnell	Gina & Jamie Monteleone
Art Hunter	Alfino	Steve
Kathleen Cirucci	Crystal Gaglione	Baby Caden
Michael Jack	Robin Forester	Sun Min
Eileen Chamowski	Scott and Alayna Pezick	Linda
Karen & Bob Grantland	Tom	Rev. Ellen Meissgeier
Joan Truman	Allen Ryan	Donald Griswald
	Craig Sanders	

Comfort to those enduring hardships,
People and their families battling cancer,
All those waiting for organ transplants
And peace around the world



Outreach Committee

Bet you don't know half of what the Outreach Committee coordinates...Join the Committee on Sunday, October 11 for goodies after church (for people and pets) and we'll give you more details, but here's the basic list:



- Little Free Pantry
- Website
- Google Business
- Bulletin distribution via email and snail mail
- Cars, Coffee and Christ events
- Diakon donations
- Press releases
- Fair Acres Christmas gift program
- Reconciling in Christ participation
- Stewardship Program
- Tee shirts
- Water table at 4th of July Parade
- Connecting with members regularly

WATCH THE BULLETINS FOR UPCOMING DATES !!!

Crafts for Christmas!!!

Help is needed creating crafts for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar on **DECEMBER 5TH, 2026**. Materials and instructions will be provided. We will meet on Thursdays in the social hall, starting at 6:00PM.



HOMEMADE STROMBOLI

Stromboli Making!!!

Will happen on Tuesdays at 6pm in the kitchen.NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Christmas at Fair Acres! The Outreach Committee is asking for members to shop for a resident of Fair Acres, the Delaware County Geriatric Center. If you are interested in participating, please see Beth Funk or another Outreach Committee member. You will be given the request of a resident, valued at no more than \$25. You will provide the item in a gift bag by mid November. Please see future bulletins for exact date



**Immanuel's Manger Preparing for
her 75th Birthday in 2026!**

Our Nativity scene, first displayed in 1951, marks her **75th birthday!** What are some ways we might celebrate this milestone? Maybe we do some Christmas Caroling outside at the manger followed by hot chocolate and goodies? Other ideas? Please put on your thinking caps and let me know what ideas you may have! As we prepare to display it there are a few things we could do from a maintenance standpoint to keep it going for years to come. Restoring the figure of Mary is a fall project I'm taking on. See the "before" photo included here. **SET UP DAY** will be NOVEMBER 28th starting at 9AM. If you're interested in helping, please let me know. Thanks to all those who have helped with our Manger scene for 75 years.

Early Christmas Blessings to All!
Sincerely, Karl McClellan



RESOURCE NEWS



Fall is Here & Our “Heating Oil Free” Future is on the Horizon!

We had a challenging end of the summer with some big bills and some soft weeks in terms of attendance and offerings. We will work through this given our congregation’s generosity when faced with a challenge.

Let us keep in mind that God’s amazing generosity is always there.

Thankfully for all of us!!

A highlight in September, thanks to those who made it to the 9/13

Special Congregational meeting, **We unanimously voted YES** to take a loan, replace the aging oil-fired boilers and convert to Natural Gas!

This will be more efficient, cleaner burning for the environment and cost far less to operate. Here are some highlights to keep you informed:

We chose Harmon HVAC for the project (same company that did our AC Phase 1), cost: \$76,000.

- **The HVAC giving campaign will continue.** You all had given about \$6400 as of 9/13. As of 9/15/22 the total was up to \$18,705.57 bolstered by nearly \$2500 in remaining funds from St John’s closure (Thanks to the stewardship of our new members from St John) plus another generous donation.
- Half payment on the \$76,000. made (\$20K from our investments + \$18K from the Giving campaign).
- Loan application submitted to ELCA for \$40K. New **total** monthly payment (10 years) to be ~\$625.00
- PECO Gas contract signed and executed for the new gas service.
- Plan to run one old boiler while one new boiler is installed and operate like that to supply heat until PECO gas is ready, then install second new boiler (By early December is the plan right now. PECO controls the timing).

- We will still be running Heating Oil until the gas is ready....and remember the new Oil budget is \$1785/mo.

What Can You Do....??

- Over the summer if you have missed some offerings, please try to make them up.
- Support all our fund raisers, especially **HVAC** and the ongoing **Food Gift Coupons!**
- **Make giving easy and automatic!** Consider this.....there are **two ways** you can do this:
 - **Your Bank** You can arrange for a monthly check to be mailed directly from your checking account to Immanuel. There is usually no charge for this. You can do this through online banking (bill payment) or have a bank representative set it up for you. You can cancel this at any time. It's really convenient.
 - **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.



“Thank you” to all of you who give of your time, talents and treasures!

Sincerely, Your Resource Committee: Karl McClellan & Jeanne Warner

October Events at Immanuel

Sunday October 4

10:00 AM Adult Education
11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM Worship and Music Meeting

Wednesday October 7

9:30 AM Bible Study in Person @
St. Matthew's Woodlyn
7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study

Sunday October 11

10:00 AM Adult Education
11:00 AM Worship ***Pet Blessing**
12:00 PM Outreach Coffee Hour

Tuesday October 12

2:15 PM Resource Meeting

Wednesday October 13

9:30 AM Bible Study in Person @
St. Matthew's Woodlyn
7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study

Thursday October 15

12:00 PM Brown Bag Lunch Club

Saturday October 17

1:00 PM Healing Service

Sunday October 18

10:00 AM Adult Education
11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM Council Meeting

Wednesday October 21

ALL DAY SHOPPING PASSES PURCHASED VALID AT BOSCOV'S

9:30 AM Bible Study in Person @
St. Matthew's Woodlyn
7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study

Saturday October 24

8:30 AM **Cars, Coffee and Christ** in
Saint Matthew's Woodlyn
Parking Lot

Sunday October 25

REFORMATION SUNDAY- WEAR YOUR RED!!!

10:00 AM Adult Education
11:00 AM Worship

ImmanuelLutheranChurch
501 ChesterPike
Norwood,PA19074

Immanuelnorwood.org
610-586-5860

