



9th Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Norwood, PA ~ Phone: 610.586.5860

www.immanuelnorwood.org

The People of Immanuel are Ministers of the Church

The Rev Scott R. Lee, Pastor

Kathleen Schneider, Director of Music

PRELUDE (*Prayerful time for reflection.*)

^MISSION STATEMENT:

C: We of Immanuel are claimed, gathered, and sent by God to live Christ's example through worship, education, and service.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

^GATHERING HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

^KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

^HYMN OF PRAISE (*Verses 1&2*)

God of Promise, Let These Signs of Grace

Refrain

God of prom - ise, let these signs of grace

kin - dle in our hearts a song of praise.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Life - giv - ing wa - ter | soak - ing our dry - ness, |
| 2 Word of pro - claim - ing, | breath on the wa - ter, |
| 3 Oil of a - noint - ing, | fra - grant with pow - er, |
| 4 Bright light of Eas - ter | cleav - ing the dark - ness, |
| 5 Robe of a - dop - tion | grow - ing God's fam - 'ly, |

drown - ing our sin each day, mak - ing us new—
 plant - ing your prom - ise— the voice from a - bove:
 nam - ing us ho - ly while hold - ing our pain—
 shin - ing up - on and with - in us to - day—
 wrap - ping our bro - ken - ness in the di - vine—

Refrain

mer - cy come stream - ing from you.
 "This is my child, my be - loved."
 mark of the life that we gain.
 bea - con of hope on the way.
 love be - come sym - bol and sign.

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray

^PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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First Reading:

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, word of life: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm:

Psalm 33:12-22

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³ **The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴ God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵ **God fashions | all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size | of the army, nor are warriors rescued by

their great strength.

¹⁷ The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.

¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹ to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.

²⁰ Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield.

²¹ Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

²² Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, word of life: **Thanks be to God**

^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's Holy Name, alleluia!
Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's Holy Name, alleluia!
Praise God's Holy Name, alleluia! Praise God's Holy Name, alleluia!
Praise God's Holy Name, alleluia! Praise God's Holy Name, alleluia!

^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th Chapter

C: **Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor. Scott Lee

^HYMN

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath,
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy;
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.

Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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^APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Kneeling as able.)*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

^PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, as you feel comfortable.

OFFERING

We join other Christians in joyfully responding to God's goodness, through your personal giving. The ushers will pass the offering plates during this time. For those who don't feel comfortable passing the plates, we ask that you place your offering in the plates located at the front of the nave prior to the service, or after the service, in the plate on the table as you exit into the Hospitality area. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their supportive giving.

^OFFERTORY HYMN



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the

brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the

seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,

and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

+HOLY COMMUNION+

^GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. **C:** **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Santo, santo, santo*



San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

. . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.
your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.

Ben - di - to el que vie-ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .
. . . Bless - ed be the Sav-ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to e-res, oh Dios.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *In the night he was betrayed.....*

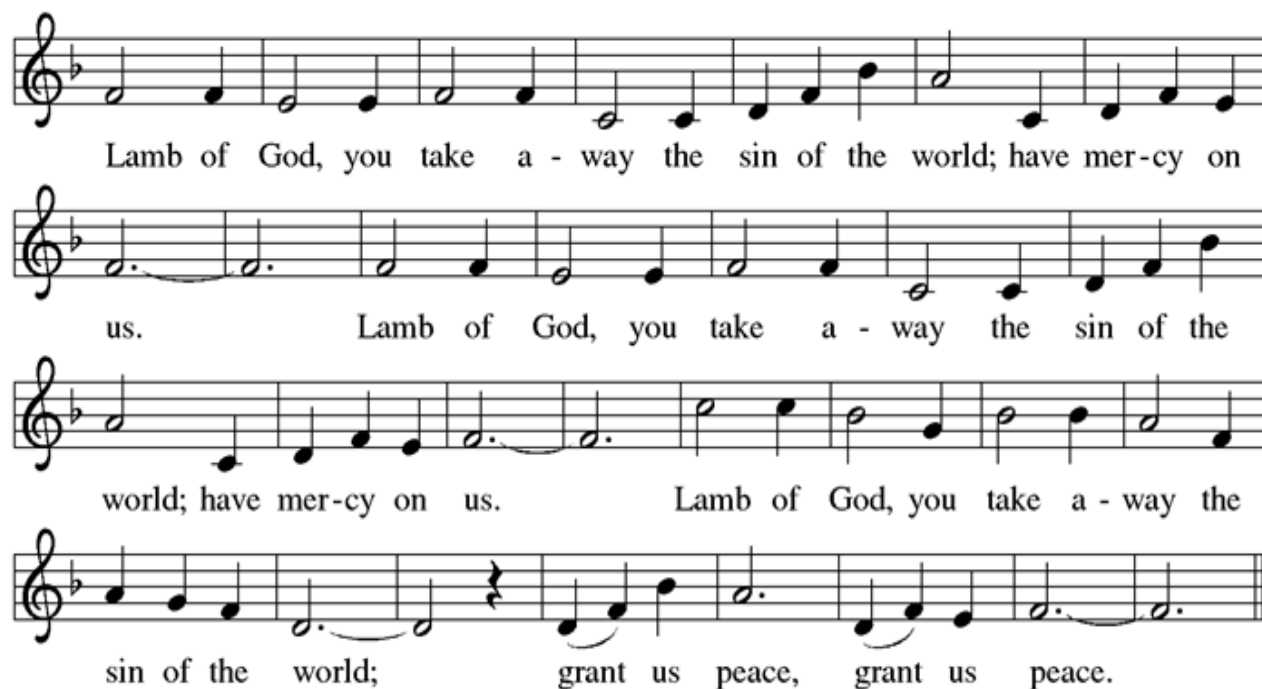
^LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The table is ready, come and eat.

C: Amen



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *(By Intinction)*

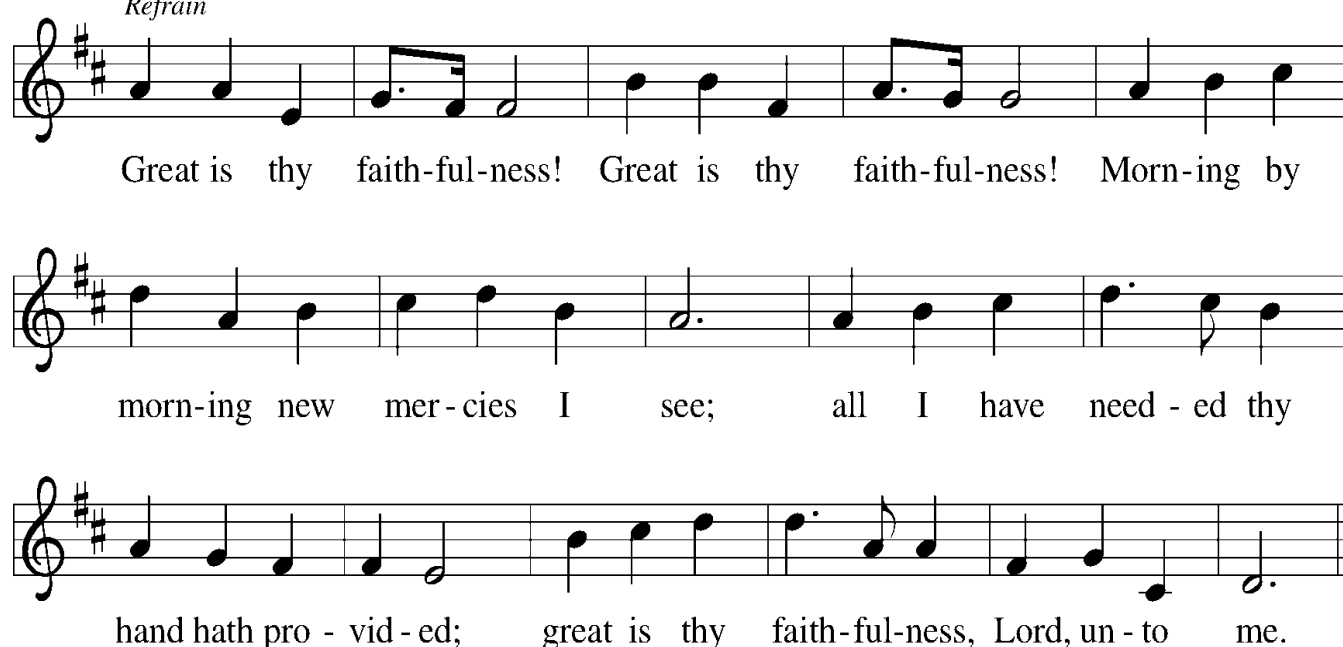
*All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of **Holy Communion**. After it is placed in your hand, dip your wafer in the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice).*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

^HYMN

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

^DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



As a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood, commits to celebrating the love of God with ALL people as we are all made in God's image. We are committed to racial equity in our congregation, community, and country. Whatever your abilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, race, culture, faith tradition or economic circumstance; whatever your past or present – you are welcome to share in God's love and our community.

Welcome Visitors! We are very glad you are with us today! It is a privilege to have you share our worship service. Please take a moment to fill out the Visitor Guest Book located at the top of the steps at our Chester Pike entrance. We would appreciate having a record of your communion with us today. Please sign a communion card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions please ask any of the members, we'll be happy to help. Check out www.immanuelnorwood.org or our Facebook page. **Thanks for being with us!**



Supporting IMMANUEL's Mission with Our Generosity. We have three easy and virtual ways for people to donate to IMMANUEL. You will see on our Website and on our Facebook page "links" which you can click and make a secure donation. Here is a **QR code** which you can scan with your smart phone. Thank You for your continued generous support!



ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.

SUNDAY

Worship .

11:00 AM

Outreach Meeting

12:00PM

	Lector	Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Greeters
Aug 10	V. Slotterback	K. McLellan		J. Morrison
Aug 17		M.Horne-Onimus		K. McLellan
Aug 24		D. Watts		J. Crane
Aug 31		K. McLellan		B. Funke



June Income - \$10,0551

June Expenses \$11,141

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 coupons. Help us help our church! See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for details.



Heating Oil Season is over! However, the fall will be here soon enough! Our mascot for our Heating Oil campaign, **Lu the Firefly** 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.

The Outreach Committee is asking for your help

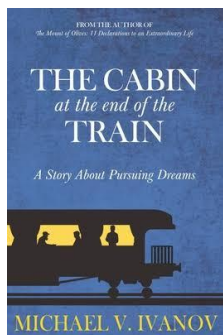
We are planning to put together 100 Hygiene kits to give out at the end of the Vacation Bible school and need you to help provide the supplies to be included. The plan is to have everything by August 13th.

We are the following items **ONLY** at this time:

Travel size tissue packs
Travel size Deodorant
Soap (travel size bar)

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/24BGKY941ANWK>

Thank you for your support with this project. If you have any questions please see Colleen Kelly or any member of the Outreach committee.



Summer Reading

Looking for a good book to read on your long summer days at the beach? Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study will be reading **The Cabin at the End of the Train** by Michael V. Ivanov. It's a story about Pursuing Dreams. We will be discussing this book when Bible Study resumes in September. Let us know what you think of the book. Happy reading!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

You may sponsor a child in VBS for a contribution of \$10 per child. If you wish to do so, please mark your envelope “FOR VBS” and place it in the offering plate or give directly to Jeanne Warner. Thank you for your generosity.



SCOUT'S ON A MISSION!!!

The mission effort for the Vacation Bible School is collect pet food for local shelters. In order to maximize their efforts, the *entire month* of August you may help their efforts by making donations of any unopened nonperishable pet food until August 31st. Please see Jeanne Warner with questions or concerns. Thank you for helping!



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 7, we're planning fun (and food) for everyone! From 10:00 – 10:45 am adults will join the children – getting to know each other as we participate in activities together. 11:00 am – informal worship NOON Our annual picnic on the church lawn MORE DETAILS to come!

Boscov's shopping event! 25% off lowest sale price on Wednesday October 22, 2025 shopping hours 8AM – 11PM in store AND online. Immanuel receives \$5.00 for each pass used! Please contact Mary Lyn at (610)888-2579 for details.

