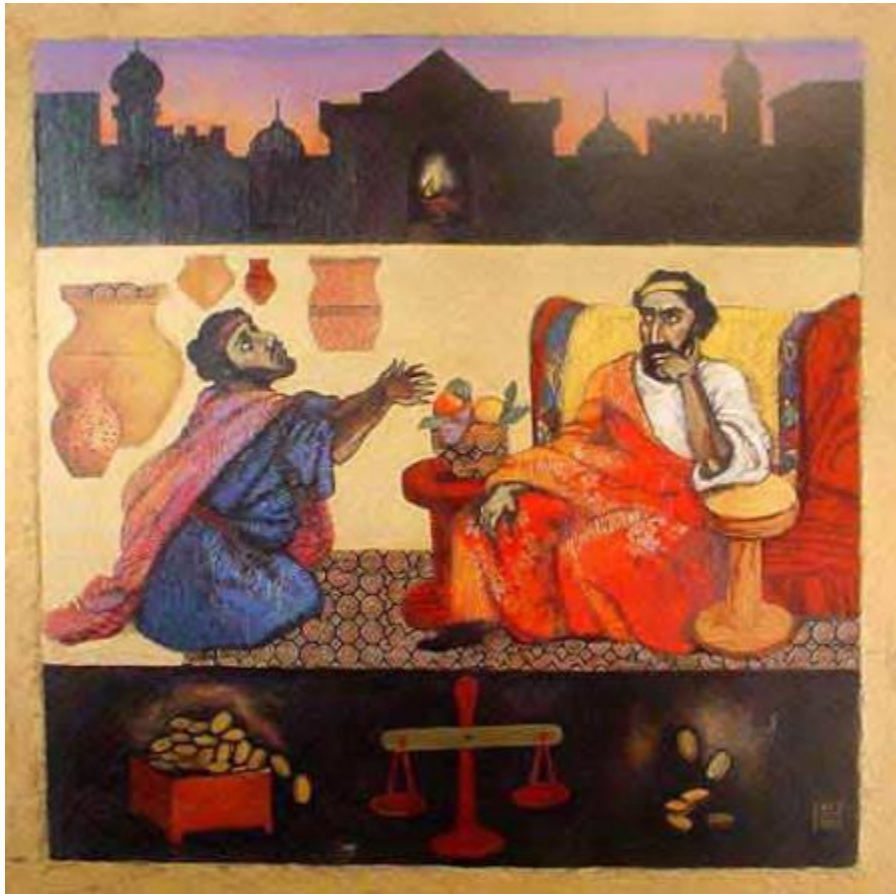




16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
 3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
 The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

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

2 Word of pro - claim - ing,

3 Oil of a - noint - ing,

4 Bright light of Eas - ter

5 Robe of a - dop - tion

soak - ing our dry - ness,

breath on the wa - ter,

fra - grant with pow - er,

cleav - ing the dark - ness,

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

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalm

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING**Romans 14:1-12**

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

^GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

^HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But

he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Lee

^HYMN

Jesus Loves Me!



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

^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.)*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

^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 do not 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 dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,
 and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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 Him 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*



The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two lines of lyrics. The second staff has two lines of lyrics. The third staff has two lines of lyrics. The fourth staff has two lines of lyrics.

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.
(first verse only)

336

Lamb of God Your Only Son

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain
 sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me

in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The table is ready, come and eat.

C: Amen

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (*By Intinction*)

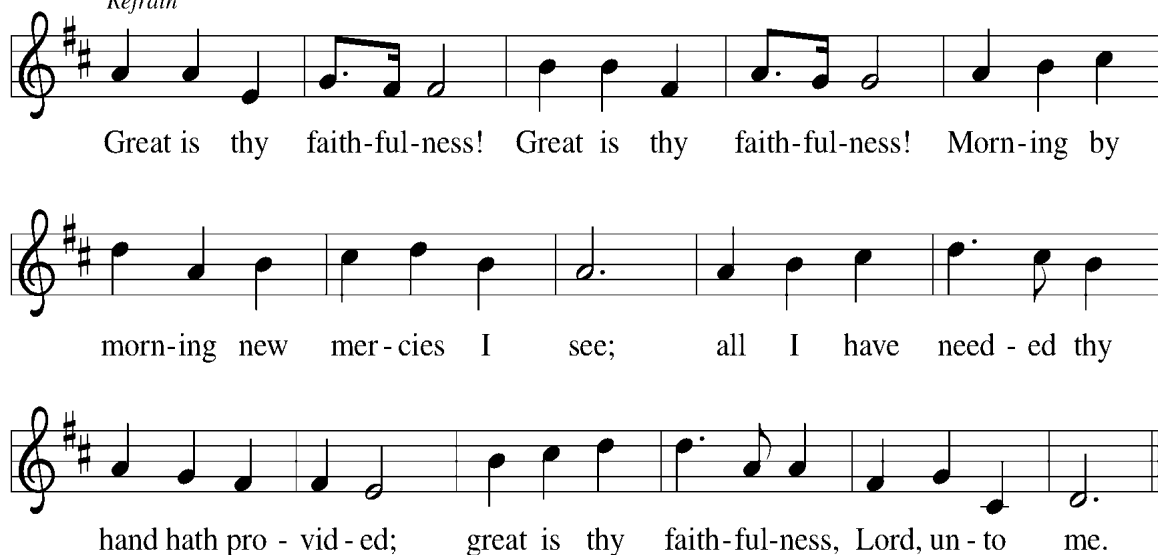
*All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of **Holy Communion**. After it is placed in your hand, dip your wafer in the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice). Sign a communion card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.*

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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

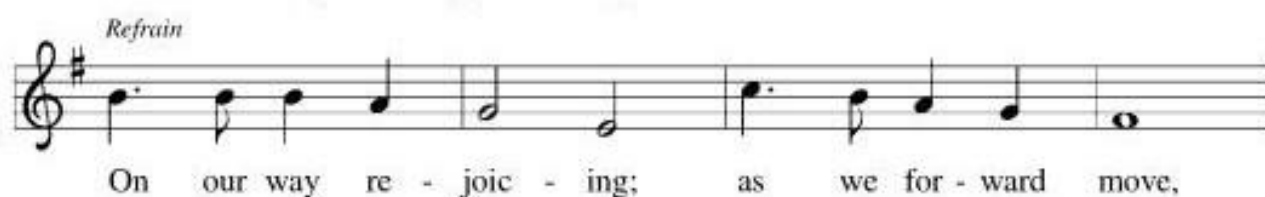
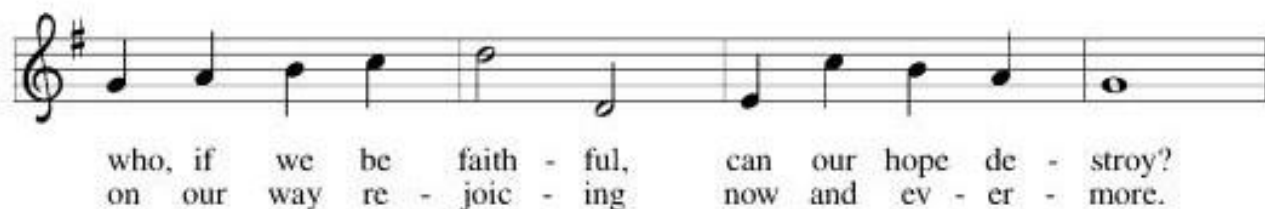
The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever .**Amen.**

^HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing



^DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **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 extremely 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. If you have any questions, please ask any of the members, we will be happy to help. Check out www.immanuelnorwood.org or our Facebook page.



Supporting IMMANUEL's Mission with Our Generosity. We have three easy & 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. And here is a **QR code** which you can scan with your smart phone. Thank You for your continued generous support!



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

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.

SUNDAY

Worship

11:00AM

Date	Lector	Worship Assistant	Greeters	Acolytes
Sep 13		J. Kintsche	J. Morrison	E. Enriquez
Sept 20		M. Horne-Onimus	K. McClellan	
Sep 27		K. McClellan	J. Crane	



August Income - \$8367

August Expenses - \$10,943



Diakon (a social service of our local SEPA Synod) 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. 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.

Special Congregational Meeting TODAY

for HVAC Phase #2 Loan following the 11AM service to vote on an ELCA's Mission Investment Fund loan to pay for Phase #2.

(Phase #2 is this work to replace of our Boilers and convert to gas).

Please see the display in the Hospitality area for more information and how you can help. See Karl McClellan or Fred Warner for even more details. Thank you for support!



In person weekly Bible Study at St. Matthew's Woodlyn with Pastor Lee, begins on **September 23rd 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



Our **ZOOM Bible study**, on **Wednesday** evenings at 7:00PM for one hour, will be back on **September 23rd**. 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!

Welcome back! Hope you had a great summer. For those who read our summer reading book *The Blessing Effect*, by Robert K. Pozil, I hope you enjoyed it. Sunday morning Adult Sunday School will resume on **Sep 20th at 10:00am in the choir room**, when we will discuss our summer book. **On Sep 27th we will start 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! Feel free to join us! Any questions, please see Jeanne Warner.



September 13 TODAY!!!

Rain or Shine

After worship, in the basement hospitality area.
All welcome...Church will provide fried chicken



Brown Bag Lunch Club!

Starts back up on Thursday, September 17th in the social hall at 12:00pm. Bring your own lunch and join others for lively discussion and fellowship!