

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

December 2025

Pastor's Pen



As the days grow shorter and the nights stretch long, we enter one of the most beautiful and profound seasons of the church year—Advent. It is a season of waiting. However, it's not the impatient kind of waiting we experience in the checkout line or the doctor's office. Advent is holy waiting—a time filled with expectation, hope, and quiet preparation.

In a world that moves quickly from Thanksgiving to Christmas lights, shopping lists, and holiday music, Advent invites us to slow down. It calls us to pause and remember what we are truly waiting for. Not just a day on the calendar, but a Person—the One who came in humility to Bethlehem; who comes to us now in Word and Sacrament, and who will come again in glory.

Each candle we light on the Advent wreath tells part of that story:

- Hope for a promise kept.
- Peace that passes understanding.
- Joy that cannot be stolen.
- Love that came down to dwell among us.

These are not sentimental words but deep truths that sustain us through darkness and uncertainty. Advent reminds us that even when the world feels heavy, God is still at work. The same God who kept His promises to Israel keeps His promises to us.

So this Advent, I invite you to wait with intention. Light a candle at home. Read Scripture by the glow of your tree or a quiet lamp. Offer a prayer of gratitude for the ways God

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

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610-586-5860

Immanuelnorwood.org

has been faithful. And listen for the whisper of good news that still breaks into the world: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” (Isaiah 9:2) May this Advent season fill your heart with hope and your home with peace as we prepare once again to welcome Christ, our Immanuel—God with us.

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.

The Little Food Pantry

During the holiday season, please purchase a little extra food when you shop for your feast. 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 from Amazon, the approved items for our little pantry. 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 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 **There will be no service in December.**



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.

Remembering our Baptisms December 2025

Joanne Fitzpatrick



Karl McClellan

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
Chris Baker
Alfino



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



Thank you for providing your financial commitment to Immanuel for 2026. We will Dream God's Dream together here at Immanuel! If you didn't have a chance to submit your response forms in November, please send them to the church as soon as possible. If

you do not have the response forms, please contact Joyce Morrison (610.506.5387 or jemorrison28@gmail.com) and we'll get the forms to you.

RESOURCE REVIEW

It's Christmas month! The time when we look forward to the greatest gift of all: the birth of our Savior, Jesus



Christ. 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 December we will all be asked to consider this during the Outreach Committee’s **Stewardship Campaign, Food Gift Coupons, Raise Right Gift Certificates and Christmas Memorial Sprays**. Please prayerfully consider what you are currently giving, and see how you may increase your giving to our congregation and our efforts to help others during the holiday season.

So How Can We Show Our Generosity ?

- Do our best to give regularly .If you miss a week, please try to make it up.
- **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.

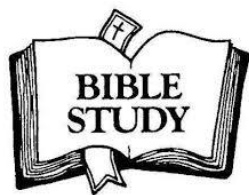


Sincerely, Your Resource Committee: Karl McClellan, Jeanne Warner & Sandy Hendrick



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 .



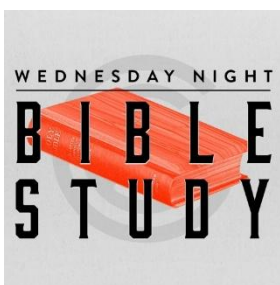
Weekly Bible Study at St. Matt's

9:00 am in person Bible Study on Wednesdays at

St. Matthew's Woodlyn will continue to meet through

December 10 then take a holiday break. Bible study will

resume on **Wednesday, 1/21/26.**



Weekly Virtual Bible Study on Wednesdays!

Come Join Us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study!

Our Virtual ("Zoom") Bible study continues on

Wednesdays; 7:00

to 8:00 PM. On December 3rd we will finish a series on

Luke: How Do You Respond to Jesus?

December 10th and 17th we'll do an Advent theme series.

Christmas break will be after the 17th and we shall start back up in the New

Year on January 7th. All you need is your Bible and we'll provide the

discussion questions when we connect. For a copy of the session Study

Guide, please go to the mailboxes in the rear of the Hospitality Area and on

the left-hand

lower corner you'll find "Zoom Bible" with copies for that week in a folder.

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***. The web site will be updated with the proper link, connection information with dial in numbers.

Meeting ID and Passcode. Here is the ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89778279740?pwd=kDC4ionJbzgZ6PLWDRCAvyiSaYtpl2.1>

You can also use your phone to connect. To use the dial-in option. Simply dial one of the numbers below at the start of the event. Provide the meeting ID followed by the pound (#) key. You may be prompted to enter the meeting passcode as well followed by the number.

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

Meeting ID: 897 7827 9740 Passcode: 952485

Any questions please see Karl McClellan or Fred Warner



RaiseRight

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. **The last date in which** orders will be sent in for purchase is **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 21st** at the **11:00 AM** service. Practices are every Sunday 9:15AM



Poinsettias!

It's time to order again! Please see Jean Crane to order a poinsettia plant **through Sunday, December 7th**. The cost per plant is **\$8.00**.



Holiday Bazaar is 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.

Christmas Memorial Sprays

Order forms are available Assembly of the sprays will begin on **Thursday, December 11th at 6PM**. No experience ? No problem- we'll teach you! Any questions, please see Mary Lyn.



Nativity Scene and Church Tree



A great BIG thanks to those who helped put them up. Soon we will need to take them back down and store them for next year. As of this newsletter, the ***date is still TBD*** as to when this will take place. Please watch the bulletins to find the published date when we will need volunteers to accomplish this goal. More details will be forthcoming!



The Ministerium Blue Christmas is a service of hope for the holidays; in which special attention is paid to the needs of those that are “blue,” sad or in pain at this holiday time. Local churches are combining efforts to hold this service at **St. Matthew’s in Woodlyn on December 21st, 2025 at**

6:00pm. The service blends elements of Christmas worship with the hope that Jesus provides to those in pain. The service is open to any individual or family that may find it helpful during this challenging holiday season.



Cantata	Dec. 21 st	11:00 AM Service
Candlelight Service	Dec. 24 th	6:00 PM Service
Lessons & Carols	Dec. 28 th	11:00 AM Service



Severe Weather Policy

In the event of severe winter weather please call the church office at **610.586.5860** for a recorded announcement regarding the status of Sunday morning services. Closing announcements will be made no later than 6:30AM to ensure ample time for travel planning.





Committee Chairs!!!

Please remember to have your annual reports in to the church office by the end of the year. The most efficient way to do so is to email at:

immanuellutheran.norwood@gmail.com .Everyone's support and help is greatly appreciated. Let Patty Clerico know if you would like a copy of the report which was filed for 2024 to use for reference, and in which format you wish to receive the report- electronic or hard copy.



Church Council nominations are coming up! Are you interested? It's that time of year as we prepare for the annual meeting in 2026 that we develop a ballot for Church Council elections. This year we have the following vacancies:

- ☐ Three terms of three year positions
- ☐ One term of two years
- ☐ Two terms of one year
- ☐ Two terms of one year for Junior Council Members

If you are interested in being considered to be on the ballot for church council please see Karl McClellan, Nominating Committee Chair.

December Events at Immanuel

Saturday December 6

**9:00AM – 2:00PM Christmas
Bazaar**

Sunday December 7

9:45 Christian Ed Committee

10:00 Education Hour

11:00 Worship

12:00 Music and Worship Meeting

Tuesday December 9

2:15pm Resource Meeting

Wednesday December 10

9:00 Bible Study at St. Matt's

LAST MEETING IN 2025

Sunday –December 14

10:00 Education Hour

11:00 Worship

12:00 Outreach Meeting

Sunday –December 21

10:00 Education Hour

11:00 Worship and Cantata

12:00 Council Meeting

6:00PM Blue Christmas at St.
Matthew's in Woodlyn

Wednesday December 24

6:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday –December 28

11:00 Lessons and Carols Worship

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