

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed (especially Norm Winterhoff and Dale Kurth). Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Sharing of Peace

Offering

Offertory Hymn "Go Tell It on the Mountain" #290 vss. 1,3

Offering Prayer

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving pg. 206

Dialogue

Preface

Holy Holy Holy pg.207

Thanksgiving at The Table

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymns "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" #490

"What Child is This" #296

Blessing after Communion

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Hymn "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" #271, vss. 1, 2, 5

Litany from John 1

Lighting of the Candles

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" #281

Dismissal

Postlude

Dear ILC Family,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

In this special and sacred time of the year, I wish to extend to you and your loved ones Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year. While we might recall difficult times and frustrations in 2020, we continue with faith, peace, love, joy, and hope in 2021.



Not all of you are familiar with my background as a Palestinian Christian and know how my family experiences Christmas back home. The pictures you see reflect Palestinians living under the Israeli military occupation of Palestine. The Israeli illegal 26.25-ft-high separation wall surrounds Bethlehem preventing anyone from getting in or out without a permit.



FYI: “Each year approximately 500-700 Palestinian children, some as young as 12 years old, are detained and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system. The most common charge is stone throwing.”¹

Please pray for the Palestinians and Israelis to experience the joy and peace of Christ and to settle their differences justly. May you have the grace to find peace and joy this Christmas and throughout

the New Year.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras, Ph.D

¹ https://www.dci-palestine.org/children_in_israeli_detention

NEWS

Holy Communion is now available at ILC. This table is located by the front office. Each package contains the Body of Christ and a prayer. Pastor Niveen has blessed each one. All the packages were assembled using the highest sanitizing measures. Because several of you have received the Holy Communion smashed in the mail, **the church office will stop mailing the Holy Communion.** Therefore, you have three options: First option: pick up the Holy Communion from the church. Second option: you can come to church and the pastor will pray with you and give you the Holy Communion. The pastor will practice social distancing. Third option: call the church office at (715) 842-3644 and ask that the Holy Communion be mailed to you. The ILC homebound individuals will continue to receive the Holy Communion by mail.

Secured Mailbox: There is one installed next to the church office. It is on the outside the building on the wall. You are encouraged to drop your offering there.

Sunday, December 27, 2020. The Synod Staff will be providing worship service for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Bishop Anne Edison-Albright will be preaching.

Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Year End Giving Deadline: Members contributions for the 2020 Tax Year must be submitted by this date.

TeleCare: "phone call of love." Pastor needs a group who is willing to participate in the TeleCare Ministry, which is lay-led and lay-driven evangelism and pastoral ministry that expresses your church's care and concern to every member of ILC. The pastor will provide the volunteers the names of parishioners to call. If there is something the pastor should be made aware of, the volunteers must report the information back to the pastor.

We are looking for 1 item for ILC: A 24" or 30" circular rug for the Gathering room to go under the plant as watering has caused a stain in the carpeting, if you have one you could donate.

- **Mitten Tree:** The Mitten Tree is set up. It will available through the end of January. You may bring donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and sweaters to put under the tree. The items collected will be taken to the Neighbor's Place. Please contact Janci for additional information.
- **Olive Oil is Here!** Canaan Fair Trade olive oil is available in the church office. The 500 ml bottles are available in the church office for \$15.00. The purchase of this excellent olive oil supports the Palestinian farmers who are part of the cooperative. In addition to using it for your own purposes, it also makes a wonderful gift to give someone!
- **In-Person Worship Service has been suspended until further notice.** The following ILC services and ministries will continue to be online, via telephone and Spectrum TV:
 - Our Facebook Page: @ILCWausau
 - Our YouTube Channel: Search "Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau Wisconsin, Inc." on Sunday afternoon. | Our Website: <http://www.immanuelwausau.org> (Click on Video Gallery)
 - Spectrum TV Cable Channel 980 at 11AM Sunday, 5:45 PM Tuesday & 9:15 AM Thursday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran.)
 - **Dial-a-Sermon is Live. Dial 1-715-200-9495.** Pastor Niveen's weekly sermon is now available on any telephone.

Church office phone number is 715-842-3644 for emergency only call 510-355-4352