

Immanuel News



November 2019

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Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church on Facebook: [@ILCWausau](https://www.facebook.com/ILCWausau)

Our Mission: Immanuel Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers committed to live and share God's love by serving our community and the world.

Our Vision: We gather as believers who seek to grow in faith through worship, education and welcoming fellowship. We seek to share God's love with the community through word and deed. We extend Christ's love in service to our community and our world.

From the Pastor's Desk

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- ³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- ⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- ⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
- a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- ⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;



a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8 a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.”

I have recently read an article by Stephen Mattson, *7 Reasons Christians Refuse Change*.¹ I was impressed and inspired by his article. It spoke to me and challenged my thinking. I believe that many of you will benefit from it. Here is the summary of his article.

Mattson starts his article, asking why some Christians claim to be followers of Jesus Christ while exuding such cruelty and ignorance. He provides seven reasons.

1. They fear change.

Who likes change? Usually, we are uncomfortable to change our liturgy or tradition or even our church building. Mattson says that some Christians, particularly the intolerant ones, believe that since God is unchanging and the Bible is inerrant (is without error or fault in all its teaching), new ideas are dangerous and threatening their beliefs. Critical thinking or reactivity and learning are often prohibited.

2. They're privileged.

According to Mattson, "change is hard to accept when things are working in your favor. Any theology, idea, or sermon that challenges people to sacrifice or reach beyond their comfort zone isn't easily accepted."²

I learned from my experience that some Christians are uncomfortable with my prophetic sermons. I recall that one of the comments I heard was, "your sermons make us feel guilty."

Carter Lindberg, a Lutheran scholar, states that "Most pastors soon learn that prophetic sermons are a key to early retirement." Many Christians want to hear sermons that make them feel good about themselves. None of Jesus' sermons made all his audience comfortable, particularly those who enjoyed privileges. Mattson continues to elucidate that those who reject new ideas and opinions become more accepting to new ways of thinking when they feel persecuted, ignored or losing their privileges.

¹ For more information visit <https://sojo.net/articles/7-reasons-christians-refuse-change>

² Carter Lindberg, "Reclaiming Luther's Public Witness on Church, State, and War," in *The Forgotten Luther II: Reclaiming the Church's Public Witness*, Ryan P. Cumming ed., Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2019), 7.

3. They crave power.

Craving power is dangerous to the church because it creates drama and tension. Contrary to Jesus, who "humbled himself by becoming obedient to death- even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:8), some Christians strive for control and power. Mattson describes these Christians enjoying yelling and shouting, declaring statements instead of asking questions, and seeking articles or opinions that support their beliefs. Mattson points out the result of this behavior is exchanging the love of Christ with prideful ambitions.

4. The future is scary.

Mattson indicates that "unloving Christians often believe that the Bible isn't a message of hope, joy, and redemption, but a weapon meant to strike fear into anyone who doesn't wholeheartedly agree with their theology and belief system." They emphasize that the younger generation is evil and cannot be fixed, God is going to judge the world and the end is near.

5. The past was beautiful.

Since the younger generation is evil, intolerant Christians lament the past and wish to make their present look like their past. They long for the time when churches were full of worshipers. Change is very hard on those Christians.

6. They're exclusive.

A lot of Christians have "us v. them" mentality. Many Christians do not accept change because they cannot accept other believers. Instead of receiving others in the name of Christ, they judge them. It is hard on those Christians to accept the fact that Christians have different ways of seeing things and different paths in their walk with Jesus Christ. Mattson says that intolerant Christians believe that those who are true believers are those who agree with them, and those who disagree are heretics.

7. They have the answers. Everyone else is wrong.

Some Christians do not give themselves time to reflect and evaluate their convictions. They believe they possess the truth, and they have answers to all questions. Mattson describes intolerant Christians' reaction "obnoxiously rude, mean, and hurtful when communicating with others." I met many Christians who displayed unlikely behavior with those who challenge their beliefs.

In the end, all Christians are in danger of becoming intolerant Christians. We need to be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit that illumines our minds to see the truth. Self-reflection and daily repentance help us not to be afraid of change. Emulating Jesus Christ is key to a healthy and fruitful relationship with one another. When change happens in your life and church, trust that our Savior is walking with you.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D



Dear beloved Congregation,

Thank you very much for blessing me on Sunday, October 27. I highly appreciate your gesture of love and kindness.

Pastor Niveen

Church Schedule

**Worship Service at 9:00 am each Sunday
and an additional service at 11:am on the 1st Sunday of each month.**

***Pastor Niveen** is in her church office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 9am-3pm. She visits Homebound Parishioners on Wednesday. Friday is Sermon Day. Saturday is Pastor's Sabbath. Please email Pastor Niveen or call the church office to set up a time for a meeting.

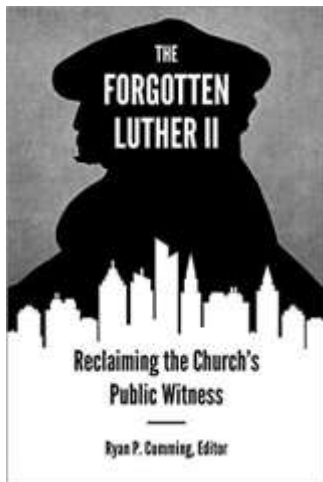
***Noisy Offering** - Save all your change for the first Sunday of each month. Social Concerns uses the money to help feed the needy in our area.

***Holy Communion** is celebrated the first and third Sunday of each month. Please remember to sign the Friendship/Attendance sheet that is in each pew when you are taking communion. This information is entered into the office computer.

TV Worship Services : Charter Cable Channel 980 5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15 am Thursday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran)

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. The address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Pastor Nkale's email address is nkalesto@gmail.com

Adult Forum



In this critical time in history, this volume argues that what is urgently needed is a cogent, clear, biblically based and theologically grounded rationale for the manner in which the church speaks and acts in the political arena. Lured at times into other-worldly quietism because of the pressure of historical events or distorted through a rigid understanding of the two kingdoms, the church of the Reformation has at times been silent in addressing the political factors that create and contribute to hunger, injustice, and war. This book looks carefully at the public witness of Martin Luther and its meaning for preaching, teaching, and carrying out public ministry today.

Luther's conviction was that the government is responsible to God for containing evil and maintaining peace and good order, and for ensuring that no person is hungry or in want.

The book asks critical questions: When should the church support the state's agenda? When should it resist? What are the options for critical but constructive cooperation?

You are encouraged to purchase the book for \$16.99 from <https://fortresspress.com/forgottenlutherii>

A portion of the proceeds will support the ongoing work off ELCA Advocacy through

World Hunger.

The schedule and topics are the following:

- **November 17: Reclaiming the Empowerment of Ordinary People.**
- **November 24: God's Word Spoken Publicly, Boldly, and Honestly.**

All the Adult Forums will take place in the Emmaus room on Sundays at 10:45am.

Immanuel Fellowship Opportunities

Fellowship not only makes the journey enjoyable; it also helps keep us healthy.

Men's Discussion Group - Al Solomonson. The Men's Discussion Group meets on Thursday mornings at 7:30 A.M. in the Koinonia. The group watches a DVD and discusses a series of study titled "Thinking about Religion and Violence" by Professor Jason C. Bivins.

Dorcas Circle - Claudette Haring. Meets at 9am on the 4th Wednesday. If anyone is interested in an evening Bible Study, please let Claudette know. (715) 241-8351

All Women of Immanuel - Vonnie Solomonson. You are always welcome to join our group.

Sarah Circle - Mary McDonell & Vonnie Solomonson. Meets at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. Sarah Circle will meet in the Koinonia at 1 PM, Thursday, September 26th. Vonnie Solomonson will be the hostess.

Are you a quilter or would you like to learn? Join the ILC quilters each Thursday at 9:00am. They meet on the 2nd floor in the education wing. If you have questions, contact Kathy Knox. Stay tuned for Fall meeting information.

Ringing for Christ. We would love to have new members in the Bell Choir. Come play bells to praise the Lord! Bell Choir Practice is 5:30 pm every Tuesday. You may hear us play the last Sunday each month through May 19, 2020. If you have any questions, contact Joanne Diestelhorst at 715-573-7379.

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, November 2, 2019: Women of the ELCA Convention. The biennial

convention of the East Central Synod WI Women of the ELCA will be held Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Howard. A flyer will be posted on the bulletin board with all the details.

Sunday, November 3, 2019: All Saints Sunday.

Saturday, November 9th, 2019: 1:00pm-4:30pm - Marathon County Public Library. NAMI Family & Friends Seminar. NAMI Family & Friends is a free seminar that informs people who have loved ones with a mental health condition how to best support them. It's also an opportunity to meet other people in similar situations and gain community support. Register online by Nov 1st @NAMINorthwoods.org or call 715-432-0180 or email naminorthwoods@gmail.com

Sunday, November 10, 2019: Honor Veterans Service. We are going to list in the bulletin the names of all ILC veterans, their branch of service, and the dates of their service. All veterans are encouraged to bring memorabilia to the Church; a special table will be set up for this purpose. They will be blessed during the worship service and a celebration that will be held during Coffee Hour.

Sunday, November 24, 2019: Deadline for Faith in Action of Marathon County's 7th Annual Christmas/Holiday Care Drive donations. The list of items needed are on the bulletin board. FIA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist people 60+ in Marathon County to retain their independence by providing supportive services through a network of volunteers. They provide medical and grocery shopping transportation, safety bar installation and food delivery from the food pantry at no charge. Donations of items and dollars are appreciated. For more information call 715-848-8783.

Sunday, November 24, 2019: Healing Service.

Wednesday, November 27, 2019: ILC will host the annual Thanksgiving Eve Service at 6pm. Pie Social after the service. If you have any questions concerning the pie social, please contact Linda Hulstrom.

Thursday, November 28, 2019: Church Closed – Thanksgiving Day.

Sunday, December 1, 2019: 1st Sunday of Advent.

Wednesday, December 4, 2019: Wednesday Advent Service at 1pm.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019: Wednesday Advent Service at 1pm.

Sunday, December 17, 2019: Altar Guild Meeting at 10:15am in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday, December 18, 2019: Blue Christmas Service at 1pm.


Sunday, December 22, 2019: Christmas Songfest Service (Carols & Candles) at 9:00am.

Tuesday, December 24, 2019: Christmas Eve Services at 4pm & 7pm.

Wednesday, December 25, 2019: Christmas Day Service at 9am.

Church Minor Repair Checklist. There is a new checklist posted by the church office. On it are a list of items that need fixin'. Feel free to add to it. If you are a handy person and could volunteer some time, feel free to take on one or a few of the tasks on the list. Thank you so much!

Olive Oil is Here! A new shipment of Canaan Fair Trade olive oil has arrived. 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!

 We are collecting soap/lotion dispensers or small dishwashing liquid containers for the handmade dishwashing liquid we are making. Jackie will place a collection box in the Narthex for them. All dispensers should be clean and dry. Thank you!

Choir

Music is an outburst of the soul. Choir practice has started! Judy Kort is our choir director. Please come sing with us. All are welcome! We sing, we laugh, we praise the Lord and enjoy each other's

fellowship!

DID YOU KNOW?

Lefse Making at Immanuel. Lefse making has been an important project for most of Immanuel's 135-year history. It was an important complement to the fall lutefisk dinners that were made available to the community as a fundraiser and an event that firmly stamped Immanuel as the Norwegian congregation in Wausau. The last lutefisk dinner was held in 1965, and thereafter, lefse was sold to the community as part of the fall bazaar, a tradition that ended almost a decade ago. The eight-week schedule of turning 800 lbs. of potatoes into lefse for the bazaar has now been reduced to two

Saturdays of lefse rolling and baking in November for selling to members of the congregation. We are no longer an ethnic congregation, but this Norwegian tradition continues.

Lefse will be made on Friday, November 1st (peeling) and Saturday November 2nd (baking). The sessions begin at 8am. The lefse will be made IF we get enough volunteers.

NAOMI Member Updates—December 17, 2019 from 6:30pm-8pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Get brief updates on all NAOMI's work, plus a 'deeper dive' learning and input opportunity on one focus area each meeting. Follow NAOMI on Facebook.

Intinction is the action of dipping the bread in the wine at a Eucharist so that a communicant receives both together. We will begin the practice of Intinction at ILC in January.

Immanuel's Dearly Departed Saints

Do not grieve as those who have no hope.
Thessalonians 4:13



	D.O.B.	D.O.D.
Jerrilynn Duxbury	October 30, 1941	November 29, 2018
Joyce Strasser	March 10, 1931	December 19, 2018
Delores M. Riege	January 25, 1929	December 24, 2018
Barbara J. Rajek	March 20, 1943	January 28, 2019

Message from the Stewardship Committee

Members of the Immanuel family,

With Gratitude and Generosity Our Gifts Provide Hope, Peace and Meaning in the Midst of Confusing times.

- Today's world is beset by anger, conflict and disconnection.
 - As people of God we experience the currents of change that swirl around us.
-

Where do we turn for comfort and stability?

- Immanuel Lutheran is an anchor of stability in our lives.
- God's love for us demonstrated through Jesus Christ brings perspective as we navigate the our constantly changing world.

Stewardship is our way of serving God.

- Our gifts enable Immanuel congregation to be a beacon of faith, hope and peace.
- Now is the time for us to reflect on our role in maintaining Immanuel's vitality in living God's Word.

We press on as God's church, pointing to the One who brings hope, peace and meaning to our lives.

- To accomplish this, we are asking you to fill out your gift giving card for the year 2020.
- We hope you will pray about your role in congregational life.
- Gift giving cards will be available in the narthex on October 20th, 27th and November 3rd.
- Gifting Sunday will be on November 17th.

Your Stewardship Committee:

Tom McDonell, Ben Haring, Rick Lohr, Jim Stolen and Wayne Kallio

● **Red or White Poinsettias** can be ordered through the ILC Altar Guild. They are 6". The cost is \$10 each. Orders must be into church office by **November 10th**. The sign up sheet is in Narthex. Please indicate if you want Red or White.



Thank you, Baylen Hulstrom for being such a wonderful hostess and also for helping with the cleanup at the last Community Dinner on October 27, 2019.

Birthdays

The following individuals are celebrating their birthday this month.



November 2019

Jace Nickolai	11/05	Dustin Hulstrom	11/18
Roger Neiter	11/08	Dixie Burk	11/26
Faye Schwarm	11/09	Gary Busche	11/26
Sally Johnson	11/15	Hilary Steltenpohl	11/27
Lori Schwede	11/15	Jerrin Nickolai	11/29
Jacob Gilles	11/17		



Anniversary Wishes to these Special Couples

The following couples are celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

John & Dixie Burk	39 years	11/01
Thomas & Sheri Mueller	34 years	11/02
Jack & Babs Fabry	41 years	11/04
Doug & Wendy Christopherson	50 years	11/09

To my Immanuel Lutheran Family:

I just wanted to reach out and touch base with all of you! Fall semester at Luther has been keeping me very busy, but it has not stopped me from keeping everyone at Immanuel in my thoughts and prayers. I also wanted to say "thank you" to everyone for your continued financial support and prayers for me during this time at Luther Seminary. As far as an update, besides classes, I am currently in the process of applying for my pastoral internship, which will hopefully take place this coming fall. I am leaning into my faith and trusting in the process, knowing that I am exactly where I need to be. I look forward to sharing the news of this journey as it progresses on. I cannot tell you how much your support has meant to me and continues to mean. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

-Maggie Westaby

Caring Corner

Psalm 71:9 "Do not cast me off in the time of old"

☞ Here are our church friends who are not able to come to church as often as they would like. They would love to hear from you or receive cards in the mail. Please call the church office if someone should be added to list. ☎

Facility		Home
<p>Bell Tower Residence 1500 O'Day St Merrill, WI 54452</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Barb Peterson, Rm 313 ▶ Carol Hettinga, Rm 307 <p>Our House Assisted Living 220 West Campus Drive Wausau, WI 54401</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Joan Lind, Rm 7 <p>Riverview Terrace 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Joyce Lohrey, #207 <p>Colonial Manor 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Norm Winterhoff 	<p>Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Thelma Bursik, Apt #101 ▶ Charlotte Traeger, Apt #215 ▶ Judy Blanchfield, Apt # <p>Heritage House of Portage 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Esther Osterby, #43 	<p>Glen & Carolyn Viergutz N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022</p> <p>Pat Stricker 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403</p> <p>Jeanette Petterson 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474</p> <p>Dale & Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401</p> <p>Faye Schwarm 231706 Guinness Rd Wausau, WI 54403</p>



News & Events Outside of ILC

- Preparing young Palestinians to care for creation.** With the 51,000 living species in her home region constituting around three percent of the global biodiversity, Lutheran educator Joan Ayyad wants young people in the West Bank to learn to care for creation.
Read more: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/preparing-young-palestinians-care-creation>
- Announcing ELCA World Hunger’s Big Dream Grant Awards.** This World Food Day, ELCA World Hunger is pleased to announce four ministries that have been awarded Big Dream Grants. ELCA World Hunger’s Big Dream Grants, one-time gifts of \$10,000 to \$75,000, support domestic ministries as they pursue innovative and sustainable approaches to ending hunger.
Read more: https://blogs.elca.org/worldhunger/wfdbig_dreams/
- Applying the Golden Rule in Political Discourse.** Even when there is a genuine desire to do so, it is sometimes very difficult to know how to practice the Golden Rule. This can be especially true in dealing with those who have different political views or who see the world from a very different perspective. Jesus’ command that we should “treat others as we would like to be treated” clearly also applies to the world of politics and yet we rarely hear discussion of how to apply that principle in the midst of intense political debate.
Read more: <https://mailchi.mp/de898a806147/goldenrule2020>

Immanuel Lutheran Church 2019 Income vs Expenses

January	\$10,357	\$14,651	(\$4,294)	\$2,094	\$12,451
February	\$10,253	\$12,308	(\$2,055)	1441.56	\$11,695
March	\$15,304	\$15,018	\$286	\$774.00	\$16,078
April	\$17,384	\$13,164	\$4,221	\$1,229.01	\$18,613
May	\$9,368	\$12,563	(\$3,195)	\$1,645.09	\$11,013
June	\$12,492	\$12,761	(\$268)	\$1,947.00	\$14,439.25
July	\$12,747	\$12,513	\$234	\$816.20	\$13,563.2
August	\$10,058	\$11,804	(\$1,746)	476.71	\$10,534.71
September	\$16,728	\$10,921	\$5,807	552.06	\$17,280.28
October			\$0		
November			\$0		
December			\$0		

Totals **\$114,691.73** **\$115,702.76** **(\$1,011)** **\$10,975** **\$125,667**

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - Thursday September 26, 2019

Council present: Pres: Bob Henning, VP: Linda Hulstrom, Treasurer: Matt Munson, Fin Secretary: Patti Busche, Evangelism: Janci Treutel, Property: Jerry Nickolai, Stewardship: Rick Lohr, Worship: Judy Kort & Pastor Sarras Excused: Judy Nickolai

Agenda

1. Devotions – Bob H.
2. Call the meeting to order at 6:20pm
3. Pastor's report: ILC Confirmation class is working with St Stephen's. Bible study has started on the book "Forgotten Luther". Pastor will be at a workshop in Chicago October 17-20th.
4. Church officer reports
 - a. Secretary
 - i. Approval of August minutes. Motion by Judy K, 2nd by Jerry, Motion passed.
 - b. Treasurer: Matt handed out P & L Budget performance reports, & Current Position & Designated Funds reports. Motion was made by Patti to accept reports & hold for Audit, 2nd by Jerry, Motion passed.
 - c. Financial Secretary: Patti reviewed her report. Janci Motioned to accept & hold reports for Audit, 2nd by Judy K. Motion passed.
 - d. Vice President Linda read a Letter from Jackie outlining her experience & shared knowledge from attending a staff Workshop for ELCA staff. She was thankful for the opportunity.
 - e. President: no report
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Education: (per Pastor) Sunday school starts October 13th.
 - b. Evangelism: Janci reports she has prepared Sample bags with messages, 1) for people who come to visit us, 2) to invite people to come worship with us. She also noted the Police Dept doesn't carry bags prepared by "God's work our Hands". However, the Warming Center gladly accepted about 40 bags & invites our members to come to help at the Warming Center. Also, 20 bags were set aside for the homeless though Tom Ray. Oct 8th is Soup & Suds. Janci, Sally R &

Pastor are demonstrating how to make beauty bars. Lastly, Brainard Funeral Home is offering us complementary calendars with our ILC info on them.

- c. Properties: This past month: Office lighting was reviewed, and repairs done as required. Meeting with Jill Preston for open questions and building issues. Meeting with Bob Henning for open questions and building issues. Replaced white board in Conference room. ** There is a list by the office door to note any properties related concerns.

- 1) Parking lot on preschool side needs to be sealed to the building.

- Considering having this contracted. Will get a quote.

- 2) Heating system needs to be reviewed prior to starting

- 3) Review all air filters. Filters need to be purchased.

- d. Social Concerns: No Chair

- e. Stewardship: Rick's Committee revised the Pledge Cards (Gift Cards).

They will be typed & Printed at ILC. Check newsletter October 20th.

- f. Worship: Judy noted October 27th is Reformation Sunday, wear your red. All Saints is November 3rd. November 10 we will honor Veterans, Nov 24 is a Healing Service & Nov 27 at 6pm is Thanksgiving Service followed by a Pie Social. Linda Hulstrom will organize the Pie Social & we will host St Stephan's. Blue Service will be held 3rd Wed of Advent Season at 1 pm.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Audit Committee Report_____

- b. Crossways Campaign, Bob reports he has turned in Pledges & follow up will be done from Campaign managers.

7. New Business

- a. Spring Antique Sale for Crossways Camping Scholarships

- i. Linda is working on a plan for our ILC children's future ability to enjoy the benefits of Crossways camping, more to follow.

- 8. Round Table: GWCS will receive award Oct 3 at 10:30 am by Mayor Melkie for the gardens & trees donated with the help of Chris Wilkie. The trees have permanent markers & the food has been going to the Neighbors Place.

- 9. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer.

Prayerfully submitted,
Linda Hulstrom