

# Immanuel News



**September 2019**

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**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.

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## From the Pastor's Desk

*'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me' (Matthew 25:34-36).*

As you know, I attended the ELCA churchwide assembly in Milwaukee. I was one of those who voted in favor of the ELCA to become a sanctuary church body. The ELCA made a headline in the news when it became the first North American denomination to declare itself a sanctuary church body. "As a sanctuary church, the ELCA is committed to serving and supporting migrant children and

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families in communities across the country.”<sup>1</sup> Since the ELCA has become a “sanctuary church,” Lutherans have been asking the same question, “what does it mean to be a sanctuary church?”

Society is divided over the issue of immigration. The ELCA is part of this society, and its members have many different views related to immigrants and refugees. Our presiding Bishop, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and our Synod Bishop, Bishop Gerald Mansholt, explained our position in two separate letters. I shared with you on Sunday, August 18, 2019, what sanctuary church means, and I will summarize the answer to this question here.

The action of the churchwide assembly comes as a result of our commitment to follow Jesus Christ’s command to love our neighbor and to welcome strangers. It was not a surprise for the ELCA to become a sanctuary church since the ELCA has been helping refugees and migrants since World War II through LIRS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

In medieval Europe “fugitives really could escape the Death penalty by claiming sanctuary in a church. The catch was that afterward, they usually had to go into permanent exile.”<sup>2</sup> Prof. of church history, Karl Shoemaker, explains how sanctuary church in medieval Europe used its authority to protect fugitives. “It would be inappropriate in the extreme to carry weapons into the church or to arrest someone or to exercise force within the church.”<sup>3</sup>

In medieval Europe, sanctuary enjoyed a legal standing, but that is not the case in the United States. The ELCA affirms, according to Bishop Gerald Mansholt, “The assembly is not asking any congregation or individual to do anything illegal.”

It is up to each congregation to determine how to become a sanctuary church. It depends on each congregation's context. The church might provide space for immigrants to live, host English as a Second Language Classes, provide clothes or provide financial and legal support...etc.

Lutheran immigrants established the ELCA. So, the ELCA is an immigrant church. Our faith, tradition and history call us to advocate and to assist the most vulnerable and those affected by the broken immigration system. Sanctuary means that the ELCA is committed "to continue to provide concrete resources and ministering to human need."<sup>4</sup>

Dear church, we might have different views, but our differences should not hinder us from working together to improve our immigration system and to make our world the kingdom of God on earth.

If you have any questions, my door is open to you.



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<sup>1</sup> "EICA Churchwide Assembly Declares ELCA Sanctuary Church," Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 7, 2019, <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8000>.

<sup>2</sup> BECKY LITTLE, Claiming 'Sanctuary' in a Medieval Church Could Save Your Life—But Lead to Exile," History, APR 18, 2019. <https://www.history.com/news/church-sanctuary-asylum-middle-ages>

<sup>3</sup> BECKY LITTLE, Claiming 'Sanctuary' in a Medieval Church Could Save Your Life, see also Shoemaker, Karl. Sanctuary and Crime in the Middle Ages, 400-1500. Just Ideas: Transformative Ideals of Justice in Ethical and Political Thought. New York: Fordham University Press, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Bishop Gerald Mansholt's reflection on ELCA a Sanctuary Church Body.

## **Church Schedule**

**Worship Service at 9:00 am on Sunday  
and 11:am on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 pad 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](http://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](mailto:nkalesto@gmail.com)

## 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. ☎

<b>Facility</b>		
<b>Bell Tower Residence</b> 1500 O’Day St Merrill, WI 54452 ▶ <b>Barb Peterson</b> , Rm 313 ▶ <b>Carol Hettinga</b> , Rm 307	<b>Our House Assisted Living</b> 220 West Campus Drive Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ <b>Joan Lind</b> , Rm 7	<b>Riverview Terrace</b> 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ <b>Joyce Lohrey</b> , #207
<b>Colonial Manor</b> 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ <b>Norm Winterhoff</b>	<b>Primrose Retirement Community</b> 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ <b>Thelma Bursik</b> , Apt #101	<b>Heritage House of Portage</b> 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901 ▶ <b>Esther Osterby</b> , #43
<b>Home</b>		
<b>Glen &amp; Carolyn Viergutz</b> N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022	<b>Pat Stricker</b> 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403	<b>Judy Blanchfield</b> 1805 Mathie Street Wausau, WI 54403
<b>Jeanette Petterson</b> 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474	<b>Dale &amp; Ann Kurth</b> 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401	

**NAOMI Member Updates**—October 15 and 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.

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday from your ILC family!

### September 2019

Natalie Munson	09/01
Clarence Johnson	09/02
Bonnie Dern	09/10
LeRoy Johnson	09/10
Adam Doede	09/13
Stuart Wanta	09/13
Erica Case	09/15
Esther Osterby	09/18
Heather Gilles	09/22
Phyllis Hustedt	09/24
Adriana Fisher	09/25
Jill Preston	09/27
Kathryn Knox	09/30

## Anniversary Wishes to these Special Couples

The following couples are celebrating their  
Wedding Anniversary

3	Michael & Lisa Steltenpohl	36 years
4	Bob & Sally Scinto-Reinertson	42 years
15	Bill & JoAnne Cerny	47 years
16	Dustin & Kristin Hulstrom	13 years
	Wayne & Karen Rajek	30 years
25	Tom & Mary McDonell	48 years
28	Wayne & Kristin Kallio	17 years

# 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 Mens' Discussion Group will start meeting again on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 A.M. in the Koinonia.

## **Dorcas Circle - Claudette Harring**

Stay tuned for fall meeting information.

## **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 education wing. If you have questions, contact Kathy Knox. Stay tuned for Fall meeting information.

**Ringin' for Christ.** We would love to have new members in the Bell Choir. We invite anyone interested to come and check us out in the fall. Any questions contact Joanne Diestelhorst at 715-573-7379

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

**September 2, 2019. Labor Day: Church is closed.**

**September 3, 2019.** Jackie, Admin. Assistant, will be on vacation from 9/3/19 to 9/6/19. Would anyone want to volunteer to work in the church office 9/4/19 to 9/5/19 from 9am to 3pm each day? Thank you, Janci, for working on 9/3/19. Thank you, Joan Winterhoff, for working from 9am-noon on 9/4/19. The church office will be closed on 9/2/19 for Labor Day. Thank you!

**September 8, 2019. *God's Work. Our Hands.*** Our service activity will be to assemble Blessing Bags for the Homeless. There is a checklist of items needed on the table at the Narthex. Our goal is to create 50 of these bags. Thank you Janci, Joanne and Judy N.

**September 9, 2019:** Communion Servers Meeting, 5pm.

**September 10-14, 2019:** Pastor Niveen will be on vacation.

**September 15, 2019 (Deadline): Thank you for your contributions to Lutheran World Relief.** Contributions are still welcome. We need some items for the Personal Care Kits. Metal nail clippers and bath size soap (3-4 oz. each) are needed. We do not need toothbrushes or combs. We have 24 bath towels, but additional towels would be welcome. Please have the items here by **September 15th**. Thank you for your support.

**September 16-17, 2019:** Jackie, our Admin Assistant, will be attending the 19th Annual "Workers in Paradise" Workshop in Oshkosh, WI. This Workshop is offered to all paid and volunteer parish office workers. The theme will be "Church Communications in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

**September 18, 2019:** Altar Guild meeting at 1pm.

**September 20-21, 2019:** Women of the ELCA Fall Retreat at Imago Dei Village Bible Camp near Clintonville. There will be a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

**September 22, 2019:** Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss the ILC Gospel Songfest. This service will be filled with music.

**September 23, 2019: Monday** – Veninga Lecture on Religion and Society: 'Life after Hate: The Unlikely Bond of a Sikh and a Former White Supremacist'. A former white supremacist and a Sikh whose father was murdered in a race-based attack will

headline the ninth Veninga Lecture on Religion and Society on September 23, 2019 from 7pm-9pm. Location: Wausau East High School Auditorium.

**September 29, 2019: SHARE THE WEALTH. But in a more meaningful way.** Attend **Give Now, Give Later, Give and Receive** and learn how to be a good steward of your gifts. Find out how to make giving an act that benefits you and the people and causes you care about.

**EVENT DETAILS:** Sunday, September 29, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 630 Adams Street, Wausau



**THRIVENT® September 23, 2019:**

Be Wise With Money™

**RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY.** Please call

Jackie, Admin. Assistant at 715-842-3644 or email [info@immanuelwausau.org](mailto:info@immanuelwausau.org) by September 23, 2019. Lunch will be served from 11:00 - 11:30. Free childcare will be provided by church members. Please join us starting at 10:30 for Thrivent ABC's, with time to ask any questions you may have about Thrivent. We will then serve pizza at 11:00 and have a brief presentation starting at 11:15 on how planned giving can work for you and your charities, no matter the size of your estate. This session is hosted by Eric M Jacobson, LUTCF, FIC and Scott E Thompson, FIC, RICP

**September 26, 2019:** Sarah Circle will meet in the Koinonia at 1 PM, Thursday, September 26th. Vonnie Solomonson will be the hostess.

**September 30, 2019 (Deadline): Immanuel's Endowment Committee** is accepting grant requests through **9/30/19**. The Endowment Committee oversees the ILC Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is a permanent invested fund. A portion of the earnings on the Fund each year may be distributed "for religious purposes which enhance congregational life at Immanuel". The Fund may not be used for normal operating expenses. Preliminary indications are that we may have a total of about \$4,300 available to distribute this year. Grant requests are evaluated and awarded at the discretion of the Endowment Committee. Grant request forms are available in the church office. For further information you may call Bob Reinertson at 715-551-6231.

**October 8, 2019:** 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Soup & Suds Gathering. Come join us for soup and soap making. More information to follow.

**October 21, 2019:** Deadline for submitting items to be published in the November 2019 Newsletter.

**October 27, 2019:** Reformation Sunday. Please wear **red**.

**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.

**November 3, 2019:** All Saints Sunday.

**November 10, 2019:** Honor Veterans Service.

**November 24, 2019:** Healing Service.

**November 27, 2019:** ILC will host the annual Thanksgiving Eve Service. More information will follow.

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

**December 1, 2019:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent.

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**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 makes a wonderful gift to give someone also!

## Thank you from Marino

*Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you all so much for the cards, kind words and extremely generous gifts of money. The money has been very helpful in paying for the books I need for Law School. I consider myself very lucky to have grown up at Immanuel and even more grateful to have played a small part in the services through music. The continued kindness and compassion demonstrated at Immanuel will never cease to amaze me and I truly feel blessed to have been apart of such a wonderful Church. I have many great memories from my time at Immanuel and will greatly miss the Church. I look forward to seeing you all again!*

*Thank you again,  
Marino*

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### Immanuel Lutheran Church 2019 Income vs Expenses

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Deposit
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	14439.25
July	\$12,747	\$12,513		\$234	\$816.20	13563.2
August				\$0		
September				\$0		
October				\$0		
November				\$0		
December				\$0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$87,905.51</b>	<b>\$92,977.40</b>		<b>(\$5,072)</b>	<b>\$9,947</b>	<b>\$97,852</b>

## Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Wednesday June 19, 2019

Members present:

Pastor Niveen Sarras, president Bob Henning, vice-president Linda Hulstrom, treasurer Matt Munson, secretary Mike Steltenpohl, evangelism Janci Treutel, education Judy Nickolai, social concerns Marge Warner, properties Jerry Nickolai, worship Judy Kort.

Members absent: financial secretary Patti Busche, stewardship Rick Lohr

1. The meeting was called to order by Bob Henning at 7:20 pm.
2. Devotions were led by Pastor Niveen Sarras; Stewardship and Stewards
3. Church officer reports
  - a. Secretary report - The May secretary report was read and a motion was made by Linda to accept the minutes as printed and read. Second was made by Marge. Motion passed.

The April minutes were previously approved via e-mail replies. Based on e-mail times - first accepted by Marge and second by Judy. Motion passed
  - b. Treasurer report - Matt presented the Income & Expense report and the Current Position and Designated Funds report for May. He also presented the May and YTD Profit & Loss Budget Performance. A motion was made by Janci to accept and hold the treasurers report for audit. Second was made by Judy. Motion passed.
  - c. Financial secretary report - The financial secretary report was submitted for review. A motion was made by Jerry to accept the report and hold the financial secretary report for audit. Second was made by Matt. Motion passed
  - d. Vice-President report - Jackie will be staying on as administrative assistant for ILC
  - e. President report - Bob will contact the police department regarding assistance on an active shooter program. Bob is trying to be at the church office on Wednesday mornings. It was determined that Faith in Action will assist with grab rails and safety concerns in the home but not general repairs. Faith in Action requested an extra key to the offices but we are exploring other options.
4. Pastor's report - Jeff is expecting to leave rehabilitation this week. Lori Schwede had a stroke. Baptism on Sunday June 23rd for Leiloni Norman. Pastor Niveen met with Thrivent rep Scott Thompson. He will offer an informative legacy workshop on tax law changes. Vacation Bible School will be August 13-15 "Who is my Neighbor" - 5pm meal and 5:30 to 7:30pm activities. Thrivent can contribute \$250 to the meal. Newsletter cost is approximately \$70/month. We should consider sending the newsletters via e-mail to

accepting members or have members pick it up at church. Stewardship discussion - try to see the planet as a person that could be harmed by chemicals. What positive changes can be made at home and at church?

## 5. Committee reports

- a. Education - Vacation bible school will be held here at Immanuel Lutheran Church on August 13-15.
- b. Evangelism - Janci is looking at low cost events like a songfest or story hour. Also a gift with a message to new families in the community.
- c. Properties - Lighted exit sign was installed and OK'd by the fire department. LED tube lighting in office hallway is flickering and will be looked at. Jerry will get a quote on running conduit from choir loft to sanctuary to better conceal the hearing loop.
- d. Open Projects: Hearing loop has been approved by the congregation and needs to be scheduled. LED lighting in the Sanctuary. Additional screen for worship presentation so Pastor can see what is being displayed. Also additional screen on east side of church. Automatic door opener for one of the church doors.
- e. Social Concerns - The community dinner will be August 25th. Help is needed.
- f. Worship - Marino can only continue to help once per month. Celebration will be July 21st.

## 6. Unfinished Business

- a. The audit committee is working on approval of the 2018 financial reports.

## 7. New Business

- a. The church potluck picnic will be August 18th in the courtyard weather permitting. Service at 10:00am / picnic at 11:00am.
- b. Possible future council meeting dates to be the 4th Thursday - 5:30 executive committee and 6:05 council meeting. Meeting agendas will be available at the council meetings.
- c. We need to consider policies for the following items:
  - selling church owned and donated items
  - screening potential new members
  - same sex members or employees

8. A motion was made by Linda to adjourn. Second by Mike. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm. Closing devotion was held by members holding hands in a circle while saying the Lord's Prayer.

## Greater Wausau Christian Services April to June 2019 Newsletter

On Saturday, June 1 Greater Wausau Christian Services fostered support for the restorative justice community gardens that is now known as the Gaining Grounds Gardens. The garden has been established at the southwest corner of Grand Avenue and Thomas Street.

GWCS organized a Thrivent Action Event to fundraise for the event and financially contributed to the purchase of the fruit trees. This was made possible with funds dispersed directly out of GWCS operating budget. Several board members of GWCS also took part in planting trees on the day of the event.

The event was a collaborative effort that involved: horticultural instructor Brianna Wright, of the UWSP at Wausau campus; City of Wausau leadership including Mayor Robert Mielke; city forester Blain Peterson; the City of Wausau Public Works Director Eric Lindman; and the Marathon County Jail which allowed five current inmates on work release to help plant trees.

GWCS will establish commemorative signage at the Gaining Grounds Garden site and give Christopher Wilke special recognition for having given birth to the concept of the fruit tree segment of the gardens as well as his leadership to accomplish the work.

The food that is grown in the garden will be used to stock local food pantries with fresh produce. The general public will also be welcome to taste the fruit and learn a little about the fruit tree varieties: apple, pear, plum and cherry trees all have descriptive sign posts located at the base of the trees.

Upon invitation from Mayor Robert Mielke, Greater Wausau Christian Services is now working to continue planting fruit trees as a work of restorative justice in the City of Wausau's other public green spaces. Donations can be sent to GWCS. 319 4th Street Suite #6, Wausau WI 54403

GWCS | 319 4th St, Wausau, WI 54403 | 715-842-5635 | gwcs@mail.com | County Juvenile Facility: Entrance is located off 5th Street next to the Open Door. On the web: Visit [www.gwcsvservices.org](http://www.gwcsvservices.org) or 'like' us on Facebook at Greater Wausau Christian Services