

# Immanuel News



## October 2020

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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

For everything, there is a season,  
A time for every activity under heaven.  
A time to be born and a time to die.  
A time to plant and a time to harvest.  
A time to kill and a time to heal (Ecclesiastes 3)

Change is surrounding us from everywhere. Our lives are full of seasons of change. Changes in trees' color, change in our lifestyle because of coronavirus, change in work and health, and the recent change of our ECSW Bishop. In my personal life, losing my father to cancer brought a significant change in my family life. A change could be sweet, but it could be bitter, too. No one likes a great change in their lives, particularly if the change comes with significant challenges. When change comes and interferes with our plans, we feel vulnerable and confused.

We have experienced a change in our ministry because of coronavirus. Some are uncomfortable with the changes, and others have been working to adapt. God does not allow changes to enter our lives to break us. The painful changes aim to mature us in faith and our relationships with one another. Despite great grief, the change that God brought to my life after the death of my father has strengthened my relationship with my family and united us more than ever.

Typically, when we encounter difficult challenges in our lives, we intend to find a new plan for our lives and begin to figure out how to move forward. When I learned about my father's death and watched his funeral, the first question that came to my mind is how I will live my life without him. I have not found an answer yet, but I fully trust in Jesus' promise, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). I might not know the way to heal my grieving heart, but I trust in the person who said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Regardless of what season of change you are experiencing in your life, trust in God's promises to be with you always no matter what. Seasons bring changes, but God's love for you will never change. God's love is new every day.

I am grateful for each one of you who is supporting me in this difficult time. I also thank you for your cards and gifts.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N. Sarras", written in dark ink.

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D

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## The Rev. Anne Edison-Albright Elected Bishop of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin



On September 26th the East Central Synod of Wisconsin gathered virtually for the 2020 Synod Assembly. The Rev. Anne Edison-Albright was elected Bishop of the synod on the 5th ballot with a total of 151 votes. The entirety of the synod assembly proceeding along with the complete results of the election for Bishop can be found on the synods website at [www.ecsw.org](http://www.ecsw.org)

Bishop-Elect Anne Edison-Albright currently serves as the Director of College Ministries and College Pastor at Luther College in Decorah, IA. She has served the Luther College community since 2016. She previously served as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Stevens Point, WI, her first call, from 2010-2016. Her pastoral ministry in both Wisconsin and Iowa have been marked by passion for ecumenical and interfaith collaboration; community organizing; faith formation for all ages; collegiality and joy in bringing congregations together; and encouraging

and equipping lay and rostered leaders. The Rev. Edison-Albright has also served as a hospital chaplain, a pastoral intern at the international congregation in Bratislava, Slovakia, and a summer missionary/English teacher in Chu Zhou, China. Before becoming a pastor, Anne was a high school English and English as a Second Language teacher in Houston, TX.

Anne received Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and journalism from Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI (2003) and an MDiv from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT (2008). She's married to Sean Edison-Albright and is mom to Walter and Sally. She enjoys gardening, baking, embroidery and listening to podcasts to refresh and renew her. Following her election as bishop she stated,

“Coming back to the East Central Synod of Wisconsin feels like coming home, and I am looking forward to reconnecting and also getting to know the synod in a very new way. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you as bishop; to encourage and equip you as leaders and to be part of the good and vital work you are doing every day. I am deeply thankful for the ministry and leadership of Bishop Mansholt, and pray for transition blessings for him and Anita and the whole family. I ask for prayers for me, Sean, Walter and Sally, too!”

**From: V.P. Linda Hulstrom:**

To our caring ILC Congregation:

I believe most of you are aware of Pastor Niveen's father's passing and would like to help their family, as I do.

I communicated with Bishop Mansholt and he instructed me that the best way to help is to send our collective collections to his office to be sent to Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in Jerusalem, and his office will send it to them. The Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) is a program of the Lutheran World Federated Department for World Service in Jerusalem. Since Pastor's family couldn't afford his treatments, Bishop Mansholt intervened on their behalf, and so the Hospital paid for his entire care there. The best way we can help is to help the Hospital so they can continue to help others in dire need of care.

I plan to send our funds to the Bishops office on October 19, 2020. Please drop off cash or check made out to ILC (memo line AVH), and we will send one check to the Bishop's office. Pastor Niveen appreciates that some of us want to help her family directly, but she is maintaining their needs for now.

Prayerfully,  
Linda Hulstrom  
ILC Council VP



**Technology Grant Award.** Immanuel Lutheran Church applied for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin's \$500 technology grant. The synod received more funds from the ELCA to be given out in the form of technology grants and we were informed that we were selected to receive a \$500 grant. The funds are for technology upgrades. We were able to purchase a new camera, accessories and tripod. Thank you, ELCA and the East Central Synod of Wisconsin.

*“You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust’” (Psalm 91:1-2).*

**Lutheran Disaster Response** is engaging with at least three Lutheran social services agencies and five synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond to the devastating wildfires that are raging across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states. We expect immediate needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized. If you would like to help, you may give by going to the link below:

<https://community.elca.org/uswildfires> Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "U.S. wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires, until the response is complete. Or make a gift to "Lutheran Disaster Response" so we can respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike.

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**Tues-Thurs, October 13-15, 2020**

**ELCA requires from** all rostered ministers to participate in the Anti-Racism Seminar. The seminar will be October 13-15, 2020. Pastor Niveen will be gone on those dates.

**Sun-Sat, October 18-24, 2020**

Pastor Niveen will be on vacation during this time. If you need Pastoral care, please contact the church office. On Sunday, October 18, 2020, Bob Henning will lead the worship service and preach.

**Sun, October 25, 2020 is Reformation Sunday.** Please wear Red if you are attending church or a red mask.

**Sun, October 25, 2020 is the Community Dinner.** We are in search of a Coordinator and 2 volunteers for this event. Volunteers hand out food only for this event.

**Sun, November 1, 2020 is All Saints Sunday.** You are encouraged to email us a photo of your deceased loved one with their names. We will use these photos to create a video in their honor.

## *For the Women of ILC and ELCA*

### **Dear Friend in Christ, a unique letter-exchange project**

1. Write a letter. Use the “Dear Friend in Christ” salutation. Please share your thoughts on these questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the global pandemic? What words of encouragement can you offer the person who receives your letter? 2. You can handwrite or type the letter. 3. You could include a drawing, a photo, or a recipe, anything that fits into an envelope. 4. Offer up a prayer for the recipient. 5. You may include your mailing address in the letter if you do not wish to remain anonymous. 6. Print and sign the:

[Dear Friend in Christ release form](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DFICpermfill.pdf) (https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DFICpermfill.pdf),

or use [our online form](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/special-initiatives/dear-friend-christ/dear-friend-in-christ-release-form) (https://www.womenoftheelca.org/special-initiatives/dear-friend-christ/dear-friend-in-christ-release-form).

We cannot exchange letters without a release.

7. Mail your letter and signed release form to Dear Friend in Christ, Women of the ELCA, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631. **Deadline for mailing letters to the churchwide organization is October 15, 2020.**

When you write to Dear Friend in Christ, your letter will be swapped with a letter from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get their letter. The exchange is anonymous (unless you provide your contact information), so you can share as little or as much information about yourself as you like.

**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.



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**In addition to in-person worship services, the following ILC services and ministries will continue to be online and Spectrum TV:**

- ❖ Our Facebook Page: @ILCWausau
- ❖ Our YouTube Channel: Search “Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau Wisconsin, Inc.”
- ❖ Our Website: <http://www.immanuelwausau.org> (Click on Video Gallery)

Spectrum TV Cable Channel 980 at 11:00am on Sunday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: [waam.viebit.com](http://waam.viebit.com) (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran.)

### **From the Church Office...**



I have the following devotionals at the office:

- Pocket and Large Portals of Prayer for October – December 2020.
- Pocket and Large Christ in Our Home for October – December 2020.

***<sup>13</sup>I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13***

Blessings, *Jackie*

**Secured Mailbox for Offerings:** 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.

**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!

### **Immanuel Fellowship Opportunities**

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

<b>Men's Discussion Group – Al Solomonson</b> Men's group meets on Thursday at 7:30 AM at the ILC Gathering Room. The Men's Group practices social distancing.	
All Women of Immanuel - Vonnie Solomonson	Sarah Circle - Mary McDonell & Vonnie Solomonson
ILC Quilters – Kathy Knox	Ringing for Christ - Joanne Diestelhorst
ILC Choir - Judy Kort	Dorcas Circle - Claudette Haring

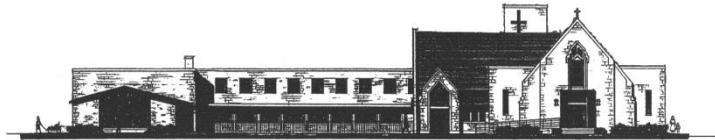
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**Gifts of Stamps are always appreciated.** Thank you to those who donate stamps each week. Your gift helps to ensure that our homebound receive their weekly bulletin and communion. It is much appreciated. I receive letters and phone calls from many that are thankful for the weekly bulletin.



## ILC History Hub

### IMMANUEL HISTORY –



### Immanuel's Chancel and The Cross

On December 18, 1949, the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran dedicated a new church building – just in time for the observance of Christmas. It was considered the most important event in the congregation's 66-year history. The architect considered the building to be “modern and functional, producing a result that is pleasing and ecclesiastical in spirit and yet practical.” The seating capacity in the nave was 300 with additional seating in the balcony and in a room on the left side of the chancel with multiple panel doors that could be opened to the altar. (Now a small storage room and a nursery.) This room would also function as a conference room and a practice area for the choir.

As one is seated in the nave, attention is drawn to the chancel arch, designed to be the dominant theme of the altar area. The altar is designed to be of “simple and chaste” design. A major feature is the suspended cross above the altar symbolizing the day of redemption. It is a suspended cross, an empty cross to show that the cross could not hold our Lord but that He is our living Lord. Because of the distinct and intentional outline of the chancel with the cross positioned above the altar, the eyes of the worshipers tend always to be focused on that suspended cross. It is a distinct feature of our worship area. In the 1980s and 1990s some members thought there should be an American flag placed in the chancel. It was discussed in two congregational meetings, and each time the proposal was voted down by a large majority. It seems that the congregation understands that the unique placement of the cross above the altar emphasizes the centrality of the cross in Christian theology, and other symbols should not detract from the architect's “simple and chaste” design.

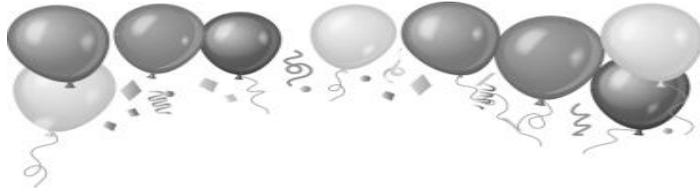
-- Al Solomonson

# 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>Home</b>
<p><b>Bell Tower Residence</b> 1500 O'Day St Merrill, WI 54452 ▶ <b>Carol Hettinga</b>, Rm 307 (715) 359-0197</p> <p><b>Riverview Terrace</b> 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ <b>Joyce Lohrey</b>, #207 (715) 675-4073</p> <p><b>Colonial Manor</b> 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ <b>Norm Winterhoff</b> (715) 675-6256</p>	<p><b>Primrose Retirement Community</b> 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ <b>Thelma Bursik</b>, Apt #101 (715)297-1785 ▶ <b>Charlotte Traeger</b>, Apt #215 (715) 298-9421 ▶ <b>Judy Blanchfield</b>, Apt #132 (715) 845-3744 ▶ <b>Kathy Groethe</b>, Apt #219 (715) 841-0130</p> <p><b>Autumn Lane Family Care</b> 384 Lyons Rd. Birnawood, WI 54414 ▶ <b>Jeff Groethe</b> (715) 449-3444</p> <p><b>Heritage House of Portage</b> 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901 ▶ <b>Esther Osterby</b>, #43</p>	<p><b>Carolyn Viergutz</b> N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022</p> <p><b>Pat Stricker</b> 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1304</p> <p><b>Jeanette Petterson</b> 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474 (715) 359-0449</p> <p><b>Dale &amp; Ann Kurth</b> 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 298-1942</p>



## Happy Birthday!

### October 2020 Birthdays

Norm Winterhoff	10/03
Margaret Johnson	10/04
Missy Reilly	10/04
Pat Scobell	10/06
Jorden Nickolai	10/08
Lilly Bong	10/09
Joanne Diestelhorst	10/09
Jeanette Petterson	10/11
Wendy Christopherson	10/13
Sydney Duxbury	10/13
Judy Kort	10/14
Joyce Lohrey	10/23
Dwala Smail	10/23
Bob Doede	10/30
Sue Doede	10/31



## Happy Anniversary!

### to these Special Couples

*The following couples are celebrating their  
Wedding Anniversary in October*

1	Gary & Patti Busche	38 years
7	Mike & Jamie Rice-Heckendorf	14 years
28	Mike & Margy Mayer	47 years

### God Is Love

*<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:7-12*



**Barb Peterson died on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Her funeral was on Friday, September 25, 2020 at Restlawn Memorial Chapel. This was a private family service.**



**Terry Tackes and Sammy Nikolay** (Non-members) announce their upcoming wedding nuptials on Saturday, October 10, 2020 here at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

**Ryan Swope and Hannah Weir** announce their upcoming wedding nuptials on November 7, 2020 here at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Pastor Sean Motley will officiate.

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**Sunday School is Back!** Pastor Niveen is leading the ILC Sunday School online. Information has been sent to each of the families. We are excited that we can provide Sunday School at home. If there is a family who we didn't contact and you are interested in your child attending online Sunday School, please let the church office know.

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### **Confirmation Class 2020-2021**

Pastor Niveen and Vicar Will, from Pilgrim Lutheran Church are leading Confirmation Class on Catechism through Zoom.

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# Thank You

**Kathy Knox for decorating the Sanctuary for the Fall.**

**Judy Kort for your assistance with the bulletin each week.**

**Mary McDonell for counting each week.**

**Jamie Rice-Heckendorf and Linda Hulstrom for your help when the alarm sounded. And also, Jill for working with the fire department and cleaning.**

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church 2020 Income vs Expenses**

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Deposit
January	\$13,557	\$14,915		(\$1,358)	\$909	\$14,466
February	\$27,289	\$6,903		\$20,386	\$447	\$27,737
March	\$11,749.00	\$19,607.55		(\$7,858.55)	\$856.48	\$12,605.48
April	\$26,650	\$5,524		\$21,125	\$2,065.00	\$28,715
May	\$13,201	\$5,415		\$7,786	\$1,740.00	\$14,941
June	\$13,587	\$12,566		\$1,021	\$1,250.00	\$14,837
July	\$11,729	\$6,338		\$5,391	\$2,244.00	\$13,973
August	\$11,976	\$5,615		\$6,361	1050	13026.1
September				\$0		0
October				\$0		0
November				\$0		
December				\$0		

**Totals                      \$129,737.84              \$76,883.09                      \$52,855              \$10,562              \$140,300**

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Thursday, August 27, 2020 (Meeting via Zoom)

Members present: Pastor Niveen Sarras, President Bob Henning, Vice-President Linda Hulstrom, Treasurer Matt Munson, Financial Secretary Patti Busche, Evangelism Janci Treutel, Stewardship Rick Lohr

Members absent: Worship Judy Kort, education Judy Nickolai.

1. Devotions were led by Pastor Niveen based on Matthew 16: 13-20. Peter was certain of Jesus identity as the Messiah & Son of the Living God. Jesus is the Rock on which the church is built. Jesus is building the church – we are only messengers. We need to depend on Christ and not on our own strength. Don't be discouraged as Christ promised to build the church.
2. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 by Bob Henning.
3. Pastor's report
4. On 8/20 there was a discussion with the confirmation class on Rib Mountain. Class will start in mid-September and will be held with Pilgrim. There were no students from St. Stephens. The syllabus has been shared with family & students.
5. On 9/6 the Synod will provide the worship service with the Bishop leading the service. Pastor will take that week for continuing education.
6. Jackie sent an email about starting a new program to reach out to the homebound members that do not have email or TV. They will be able to hear the sermon by calling a specific phone number. Council members should test this out and provide their feedback. We could go on a trial basis. This is an excellent outreach opportunity.
7. On 9/13 there will be God's Work Our Hands. Janci will provide more information during her report.
8. Email from Judy Nickolai indicates there will not be in person Sunday School until the church is fully up and running. We agreed this makes sense. What can we provide to the children for spiritual guidance? Pastor will contact Judy to see if she is willing to put something together.
9. Reviewed the minutes from the 8/12 special meeting. Motion made by Patti to approve; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janci. Motion approved.
10. Reviewed the minutes from the 6/25 council meeting. Motion made by Linda to approve; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt. Motion approved.
11. Treasurer report. Matt provided his report. Motion made by Linda to receive and hold for audit; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick. Motion approved.
  1. Compliments to Matt for providing a detailed summary of the Treasurer's report.
12. Financial Secretary Report. Patti provided report.
  1. Motion made by Janci to receive and hold for audit; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda. Motion approved.
13. Vice President's report.
  1. Candidates have been identified for 2 open positions: Kathy Knox for Social Concerns and Sally Scinto-Reinertson for Properties. We also need candidate

for GWCS representative and Council Secretary. Representatives would start after we have a congregational vote.

2. A ballot should be created and emails to as many members that we have emails for. A paper ballot will need to be mailed to those that do not have email, including a return address envelope. Target mailings by mid-September.
3. We discussed a possible restructure of the council. Instead of having committee chairs for certain committees, we could have special volunteers to handle various projects. We will discuss further at future meetings.
4. Linda has been in communication with the Bishop about how to help Pastor's family in view of her father's illness. Augusta Victoria Hospital is paying all medical expenses. The Bishop suggested that the church collect the funds and send them to the Bishop who will get them to the hospital. We should send our first funds at the end of September and then monthly from there on.
14. President's Report. Bob sent a response letter to Reuben Roehl regarding opening the church vote. A letter also went out to the congregation.
15. Education – report provided by Pastor.
16. Evangelism – God's Work Our Hands will be a virtual project. Members should choose a project from the list or one of their own idea. They should complete the project and respond to what was done and how it went. Pictures are also welcome. Janci will put together a virtual poster on the website with a possible title of Branching Out With Good Works.
17. Properties – position vacant
18. Social Concerns – position vacant
19. Stewardship – meeting was held to discuss the fall campaign. They are thinking of a temple talk video to include with the weekly sermon video. Committee members are to have their assignments completed by mid-September.
20. Worship – no report

Motion to adjourn by Janci; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Busche

Financial Secretary

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**IMMANUEL News October 2020**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
630 Adams St  
Wausau, WI 54403



***Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. The address is: c/o Justice Pule, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa.***

<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church Office info@immanuelwausau.org Monday—Thursday 9am-3pm Phone: (715) 842-3644 Website: <a href="http://www.immanuelwausau.org">www.immanuelwausau.org</a></p> <p> Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church on Facebook: <b>@ILC Wausau</b></p>	<p><b><u>Worship Services:</u></b> Sunday—9:00am</p> <p><b><u>TV Worship Services:</u></b> Charter Cable Channel 980 11am Sunday</p>
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