

# Immanuel News



## September 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

Dear friends, grace and peace to you. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service invited me to write a short article on Psalm 67 to post on their website: <https://www.lirs.org/commentary-Psalm-67>

I already preached this Psalm on August 16, 2020. I would like to share it with you here.

The central theme of Psalm 67 is that God's inclusive blessing and grace extend to all nations. God uses Israel as a means of grace to bless the nations. The United States is the most powerful and wealthy nation on earth. Can God use this nation to bless others? I am not talking on the political level, but on a personal and organizational level. Let me share my experience in the United States, especially with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). I am a Palestinian Christian, born and raised in Bethlehem. I immigrated to the United States in 2008 to pursue my Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible. Later, I completed a

Master of Divinity in preparation to become an ELCA pastor because it was impossible to do that in Palestine. I came from a low-income family that was unable to support my education. The political unrest between Palestine and Israel made it difficult to find opportunities to answer God's call and to live with dignity.

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) served as an agent of God's blessing to many international students from different nations. Students from Latin America, Korea, Middle East, India, Africa, and Europe were blessed by LSTC on spiritual, intellectual, and material levels. The LSTC community blessed me before I arrived in the USA by providing me all I needed to immigrate, including assistance with my application for a student visa, and providing a scholarship and an airline ticket. The ELCA granted me a scholarship to study for my Master of Divinity degree at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) in Berkeley, California. I enjoyed God's abundant blessings at PLTS. Without the help of the ELCA, LSTC, and PLTS I would not have been able to become the person I am today. Currently, I am called to serve a congregation as Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wausau, Wisconsin.

The author of Psalm 67 begins with a summary of the Aaronic benediction in Numbers 6:24-26, "Yahweh bless you and keep you; Yahweh's face shine on you, and be gracious to you; Yahweh's face turn towards you, and give you peace" (my translation). In our liturgy, we end the service with this blessing, or benediction. The psalmist begins with the Aaronic blessing to emphasize God's blessings to all nations, not to a particular group. The reason for God's blessing of Israel is that all people know God's saving power through Israel. God chose the descendants of Abraham and Sarah to bless the nations through them (Genesis 12:1-3). Israel's mission is to bless others.

Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas interprets Psalm 67 through the lens of church mission theology. As he states:

The psalmist [in Psalm 67] has used material available to him like the Aaronic Blessing but has so remodeled it as to make it missionary minded. Retaining all the theological import that the blessing carries, he has instilled in it the Abrahamic hope and has portrayed Israel as a blessing to the nations...Receiving God's blessing, it [Israel] becomes a blessing to the peoples because it teaches them by life and worship how to be participants in the blessing. [1]

God's blessing helps all nations to know God's saving power that freed and liberated the Israelites from slavery and oppression in Egypt. God also executes justice to all nations and guides them all (v.4), which means God is present in their lives. The outcome of this blessing is that all people will praise God (vv. 3, 5), and experience joy (v. 4). The psalmist offers a universal invitation to all nations to celebrate God's work among the Israelites. The image of inclusiveness is emphasized in the second book of Isaiah, as Isaiah 56:7 reflects on God's universal invitation for all the nations to pray in God's house.

Near the end of Psalm 67, the reason for the blessing is revealed as the abundant harvest (v. 6). The earth produces food for the benefit of all nations. People who receive abundantly share the blessing with the disadvantaged people. In this way, developing nations taste God's grace. Sharing our food and resources with the nations is part of the church's mission to sustain and nurture life. In Matthew 15:21-28, Jesus sets an example for how to share God's blessings with the nations. Jesus heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman who is, according to the Jewish law, considered as Gentile, unclean, and an outsider.

Psalm 67 reflects my experience as an immigrant to the United States. The ELCA became the agent of blessing to me, and I am praising God with joy for these blessings. Now, I am an agent of God's blessings, too. I am sharing God's blessings with the people around me here and with my family back home in Palestine.

[1] Theodore Mascarenhas, "The Missionary Function of Israel In Psalms 67, 96, And 117" (Dallas: University Press Of America, 2005), 120-121.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D

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**Men's group meets on** Thursday at 8:30 AM at Marathon Park at the shelter on the west wing of the park across from the RV and camping area. Bring your own chair. The Men's Group practices social distancing. Contact Rick Lohr if you have any questions.

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**Please help us replace Quilts & Kits destroyed in the Beirut.** The blast destroyed three of **Lutheran World Relief's** 40-foot shipping containers, which were stored in the port and held more than 22,000 LWR Mission Quilts, 100 cartons of School Kits, 300 cartons of Personal Care Kits and 125 cartons of Baby Care Kits that were being prepared for distribution to an estimated 24,550 men, women and children who were already in great need.

ILC will not be collecting items for the Personal Care and School kits for LWR. We will be collecting monetary donations that will be sent to LWR in early September. If you would like to donate, please send your donation to the church office. Checks should be payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Put LWR in the memo. We will send one check in early September. If you have any questions, please contact Patti Busche or Vonnie Solomonson.



Our communities are significantly shaped by census data, and Census 2020 will update these numbers for the first time in 10 years. The ELCA is an official partner of the 2020 Census to encourage the most accurate count possible.

It's so important that we take 10 minutes to respond to 9 simple questions that will deliver 10 years of benefits to our community. Members of the ELCA are strongly encouraged to respond to the 2020 Census online using a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet, and can also respond by phone or mail. Respond to the 2020 Census to help inform the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds to communities each year for things like health care, emergency services, infrastructure, education, and food assistance.



**Confirmation Class.** We have four students attending the confirmation class starting September 21, 2020: Grace & Emily Kallio, Baylen Hulstrom, and Alex (Natalie) Munson. The class will be held through ZOOM on Wednesday nights at 6pm. The focus is going to be on Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

**This photo was taken at Rib Mountain on August 20, 2020.**

**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.



**Weekly devotional:** Pastor Niveen shares a weekly devotional video each Wednesday. Please watch her new "YOGA with Christ" Series on YouTube. The devotional videos can be found on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osrPqPuo2ac&t=52s> and also on our website: <http://immanuelwausau.org/weekly-devotionals>

**Immanuel's Endowment Committee** is accepting grant requests through September 30, 2020. The Endowment Committee oversees the ILC Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is a permanent invested fund, and 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 \$4,800 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, or by e-mailing Bob Reinertson at [bobreinertson@gmail.com](mailto:bobreinertson@gmail.com), or calling him at (715) 551-6231.



## Mark Your Calendars!

"God's Work. Our Hands."

Sunday: **September 13, 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

We are preparing to launch ILC's **September 13, 2020** campaign to emphasize and draw focus to our mission in using our hands, talents, energy and compassion to support God's Work in our community.

While the pandemic continues to present grave challenges in our world, it also provides us with myriad opportunities to branch out and grow our support of one another to carry forward God's message of love. Our project here at ILC for God's Work, Our Hands is as follows:

1. Each participating member/member family is asked to choose an activity to support an individual, or individuals that have a need with which you would like to assist. A list of possible suggestions is included; however, you are encouraged to come up with your own ideas as befits the situation.

2. Carry out the activity/service. **This can start immediately, but please plan to complete your work(s) by September 20, 2020.** Though not essential, sharing a photograph of the service you are providing would be very welcome!

\*3. Communicate back with ILC, through email, or phone call, a description of the activity/service(s) you have provided. This is important because we wish to gather the information together and share the ways we have branched out with God's work through our hands. We will need to hear back from you about your completed work no later than **September 27, 2020** to be included in the shared report. Thank you and blessings to you!

Janci Treutel, Evangelism  
Pastor Niveen Sarras

## A Few Ideas for Service Activities:

- Phone, send a note card or, better yet- do both- to someone that is isolated, homebound or in a senior living facility.
- Drop off a goody bag or two with new reading material and small treats to a care facility earmarking it to be given to someone(s) who doesn't have family to provide those little extras that bring pleasure to their day.
- Bring a simple meal to someone that could use a break; for example, an overworked parent with youngsters, someone with limited resources or a person who is recuperating.
- Offer to pick up a grocery order, run some errands, or take someone shopping.
- Volunteer to do some household chores for someone who could use the help.
- Volunteer some time at a food pantry or food distribution center (Neighbors Place, Blessings in a Backpack, Salvation Army). This is a great group activity if you have others to join with you as a team!
- Help with yard work for a physically vulnerable individual.
- Share your garden produce.
- Drop off some school supplies at a local school, with the items earmarked for financially vulnerable students.
- Make a simple video reading a picture book and post it on social media for families with little ones to enjoy.
- Drop off some coffee and donuts for Open Door clients. Open Door hours are early morning to around noon M-F.
- Donate new personal care items to The Women's Community or The Salvation Army.



Note: if you have a God's Work. Our Hands. T-Shirt, please wear it when you do your service.

**Sunday, September 20, 2020.** Creation-Focused Worship Service. This service will be supported by Lutherans Restoring Creation, a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This is accomplished by cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God’s promise of hope and healing for all.

**Friday, September 25, 2020/Saturday, September 26, 2020:** Please mark your calendars! NAOMI is providing a three-session discussion on Jim Finnucan’s book, “Wild Counselor”. Each session starts at 3pm. There will be a Two-Part Virtual Discussion with Jim Finnucan and a panel of Local Experts. The book will be available on 9/1/20 at the Marathon County Public Library. Please share this information and follow NAOMI on FB:  
<https://www.facebook.com/NAOMI4Justice/>

**Saturday, September 26th, 2020:** The East Central Synod of Wisconsin assembly will be on September 26th. Further assembly details and registration information will be coming in upcoming weeks.

**From Barb West:** I had a house fire in April and will be returning to my house the middle to end of October. With the fire, there was a good deal of items lost because of heat, soot, or water damage or a combination of all of the above. I am in the process of getting items replaced. This is the list of items I need for my kitchen.

Pots and Pans	Rubbermaid or similar containers	Spatulas	Casserole dishes	Whisks
Measuring cups and spoons	Cutting boards	Apple slicer	Dish cleaning items, such as a brush, etc.	Funnel

Wooden mixing spoons	Can opener	Colander	Vegetable peeler	Tongs
Rolling pin	Paring knife	Serrated Knife	Mixing bowls	Meat Thermometer
Pot holders	Cookie sheets			

Please call the church before you purchase your gift so that not everyone will buy the same things. Also, bring your gifts for Barb to ILC, and we will store them until she moves back to her home.

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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.

***<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.

*From President Henning and Vice President Hulstrom:*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held when it is determined that it is safe to have the meeting. Please contact Linda Hulstrom, (715) 297-9067 if you would like to be nominated for any council position.

**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 – To reduce the potential spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau has cancelled all in-person meetings and activities until further notice, except for in-person worship service.**

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

Men's Discussion Group – Rick Lohr	Dorcas Circle - Claudette Haring
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	

**The Send Off Blessing for Maggie Westaby** was held at ILC on Sunday, August 16, 2020. Maggie is headed to Vancouver, Washington to begin her Pastoral Internship at Messiah Lutheran Church. She will intern there for 1 year.

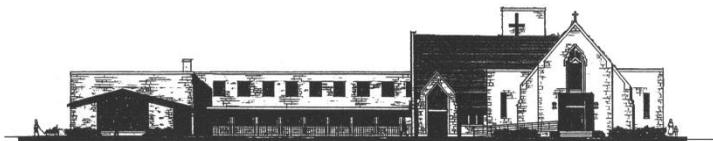


We here at ILC wish you many blessings, Maggie.

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## ILC History Hub

### IMMANUEL HISTORY – Fair Week at Immanuel



Until about 70 years ago, Immanuel had a food stand at the Wisconsin Valley Fair in Wausau. It was considered a tradition, so it is likely that congregation operated the stand at least since 1930. Pastor Victor Quello who served the congregation from late 1941 to 1945, recalled the memories of “all those good smells from the pie-makers downstairs (in the kitchen) . . . I think I hauled up to 135 pies a day from the church to the fairgrounds.” One wonders, however, how the church got enough sugar to bake hundreds of pies during the strict rationing of many food products during the war years. It took a lot of time and effort from many volunteers to run a food stand at the fair. I am guessing that other food items such as hamburgers, hot dogs, and breakfast items were also sold. Certainly, soda pop and lots of coffee would have been available. There is no record that the congregation operated the food stand after the new building was erected in 1949. No doubt, the kitchen was not ready for a lot of pie baking until the basement area was completed. Records of the Ladies Aid indicate that the congregation sold the stand in July of 1951 to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). No doubt, there was a sigh of relief from many members knowing that they would not have to invest so much time at the food stand again.

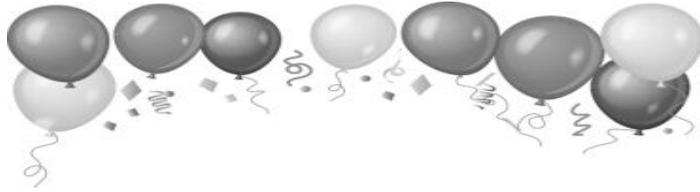
-- Al Solomonson

# 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. ☎

Facility		Home
<p><b>Bell Tower Residence</b> 1500 O'Day St Merrill, WI 54452 ▶ <b>Barb Peterson</b>, Rm 313 (715) 539-5539 ▶ <b>Carol Hettinga</b>, Rm 307 (715) 359-0197</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>Carolyn Viergutz</b> N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022  <b>Pat Stricker</b> 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1304  <b>Jeanette Petterson</b> 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474 (715) 359-0449</p>
<p><b>Riverview Terrace</b> 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ <b>Joyce Lohrey</b>, #207 (715) 675-4073  <b>Colonial Manor</b> 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ <b>Norm Winterhoff</b> (715) 675-6256</p>	<p><b>Autumn Lane Family Care</b> 384 Lyons Rd. Birnamwood, WI 54414 ▶ <b>Jeff Groethe</b> (715) 449-3444  <b>Heritage House of Portage</b> 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901 ▶ <b>Esther Osterby</b>, #43</p>	<p><b>Dale &amp; Ann Kurth</b> 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 298-1942</p>



## Happy Birthday!

### September 2020 Birthdays

Alex (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
Jennifer Schmidt	09/17
Esther Osterby	09/18
Heather Gilles	09/22
Phyllis Hustedt	09/24
Adriana Fisher	09/25
Jill Preston	09/27
Kathryn Knox	09/30

## Happy Anniversary!

### to these Special Couples

*The following couples are celebrating their  
Wedding Anniversary*

4 Bob & Sally Scinto-Reinertson	43 years
15 Bill & JoAnne Cerny	48 years
16 Dustin & Kristin Hulstrom	14 years
Wayne & Karen Rajek	31 years
25 Tom & Mary McDonell	49 years
28 Wayne & Kristin Kallio	18 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*



## Thank You!

Community Dinner held on August 23, 2020. We served 63 dinners. Thank you to Linda Swenson, Bob Doede, Jill Preston, Pastor Niveen, Vern & Joanne Diestelhorst, Bob

**Henning, Mary and Tom McDonell** for your help and donations. Thank you to **Townline Market** for the delicious ham for our sandwiches and the donation of the containers for our salads. I appreciate all your help and support. ~~ *Joanne Diestelhorst*

**Joanne Diestelhorst.** Thank you for organizing and coordinating the community dinner. We appreciate you and the community does too!

**Kathy Knox** for tidying up the flowers on the church grounds. The plants needed your special touch.

**Mary McDonell.** Thank you for consistently arriving on each Monday morning since the COVID-19 started to process the contributions.

**Jill Preston** for keeping our church spick and span during the COVID-19 quarantine. We all appreciate knowing that we will be attending church in a sanitized environment because of you!

**Judy Kort** for processing our weekly and newsletter mailings – folding, stuffing and stamping. You are a gem to help with that. And for being a reader.

**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.

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**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				\$0		0
September				\$0		0
October				\$0		0
November				\$0		
December				\$0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$117,761.74</b>	<b>\$71,267.81</b>		<b>\$46,494</b>	<b>\$9,512</b>	<b>\$127,274</b>

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## **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Special Meeting - Monday July 13, 2020**

### **Meeting via Zoom**

Members present:

President Bob Henning, vice-president Linda Hulstrom, treasurer Matt Munson, financial secretary Patti Busche, secretary Mike Steltenpohl, Pastor Niveen Sarras, evangelism Janci Treutel, stewardship Rick Lohr, worship Judy Kort,

Members absent: Education Judy Nickolai

1. Devotions were waived because this was a special purpose council meeting
2. The meeting was called to order by Bob Henning at 6:07pm.
3. Pastor's report

a. Maggie Westaby will be moving from the seminary but the \$500 reimbursement money for moving will not be provided to her from the seminary until December. Total costs for moving were estimated to be as follows; \$450 for hotels, \$250 for gas, \$150 for meals for a total of \$850. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Rick to make a recommendation to the ILC scholarship committee to give Maggie the \$850 now with the understanding that ILC would be paid back the \$500 when she is reimbursed from the seminary in December. Motion passed.

b. Pastor Niveen had discussions with pastors from area churches as well as the synod and feels that most Pastors are not keeping regular church hours due to the Covid-19, but instead are now working from home. She feels more comfortable working from home as well so she requested permission from the council to work from home. The council voted and the majority ruled to allow her to work from home. She began this on Monday July 13th.

4. Officer and Committee Reports were waived because this was a special purpose council meeting.
5. Purpose of Special Purpose Council Meeting - The Reopening of the Church

a. Pastor Niveen feels that is is too much burden on her to handle the in-person services all by herself. On Sunday July 5th, the air conditioning wasn't working in the sanctuary and after she could not get it working she chose to move the service downstairs to the fellowship hall where the air conditioning was working, but had no one to help her do so.

b. Then on Sunday July 12th, Pastor Niveen and Kathy Knox had to change one of the banners because the verse was not appropriate for that Sunday of the church calendar.

c. It was discussed that the alter guild should still be sure that the correct paraments and banners are in place and check the oil in the candles. Pastor Niveen will handle the needs for communion herself to minimize the number of people making contact with the sacrament at this time.

d. It was also discussed to request one head usher attend each in-person service to be available to help out if unforeseen circumstances arise. Judy Kort will call Mike Schwede to ask him if he can make arrangements for that to happen.

6. A motion was made by Judy Kort to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Patti. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.
7. Closing devotion was waived.

**IMMANUEL News September 2020**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
630 Adams St  
Wausau, WI 54403



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*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)*

<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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