

Immanuel News

December 2021



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.

A Thought



Christmas means the mass of Christ. Look around you, what do you see? Do you see people getting ready to celebrate the mass of Christ? Or do you see people are busy buying gifts? Do the streets and shops' decorations point you to Christ or Santa Claus? Ask any kid about the essential part of Christmas, and you'll find that the majority would say, Santa Claus. The truth is that Jesus Christ is the reason for the season. Jesus Christ is the reason for Christmas. We need to say it loudly over and over to our

children and grandchildren.

Satan has been attacking the church for centuries. His agenda is to demolish the name of Christ and replace him with Santa Claus. The devil is doing so by secularizing Christmas and uprooting its religious roots. "Secularization can be

viewed as a gradual yet significant change in religious heritage where worldly influences erode the religious elements of traditions that communities have practiced for years."¹

Essentially, Christmas has been overtaken by commercial interests that are keen on maximizing profits instead of supporting Christian believers' values and beliefs. We are complicit with Satan when focusing on gifts and Santa Claus rather than the Lord Jesus Christ. I know these words sound harsh, but ask yourself, do I spend more time shopping for Christmas or meditating on the Nativity of Christ? Your answer determines whether you are complicit.

Here are suggestions you can use to resist Satan's plan and focus on Jesus.

1. Put "Jesus Is The Reason For The Season" yard sign in your front yard.
2. Send Christmas cards that convey a spiritual message.
3. Celebrate Christmas with an Advent Wreath.
4. Read the gospel story of the Nativity of Christ to your children and grandchildren.
5. Set up a Nativity scene in your home.
6. Help a family in need in the name of Jesus Christ.

May prayer that all of us will focus on Christ, the incarnated God. Amen.

"For to us a child is born, to us, a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).



“{Jesus said] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

¹ Huthaifa Shqeirat, "The Secularization of Christmas," *Traversing Tradition*, December 23, 2020, <https://traversingtradition.com/2020/12/23/the-secularization-of-christmas/>.



Richard Wurmbrand, (March 24, 1909 – February 17, 2001) and Sabina Oster Wurmbrand (July 10, 1913 - August 11, 2000) were born into a Jewish family in Romania. In 1938 Sabina and Richard were converted to the Christian faith due to the witness of Christian Wolfkes, a Romanian Christian carpenter; they joined the Anglican Church's Ministry among Jewish people. Richard was ordained twice—first as an Anglican, then, after World War II, as a Lutheran priest. In 1944,

the Soviet Union occupied Romania and attempted to control churches, Richard & Sabina immediately began an effective “underground” ministry to their enslaved people and the invading Russian soldiers.

On February 29, 1948, on his way to a church service, Richard was seized by the secret police and locked away in solitary confinement. For three years, he was confined to an underground cell with no lights or windows, where absolute silence was preserved – itself a form of sensory deprivation torture. Richard did not consider this time of imprisonment wasted. He delivered sermons each night to himself. He even attempted to evangelize other inmates by tapping Morse code² messages on the wall. **Two years later**, Sabina was also arrested. Sabina was taken to work on the Danube Canal (a project which was never completed). Mihai, their nine-year-old son, was left homeless. Sabina spent three years working at penal labor. During this time she was frequently interrogated by her captors. Eventually Sabina was released, but she was greeted with the worst news imaginable. Secret police, posing as former prisoners, claimed to have attended Richard’s funeral in prison. Her husband, she was told, was dead.

But this was not true. Richard was being moved from prison to. He experienced extreme physical torture during this time. The guards beat the soles of his feet until the skin tore off, then again until they exposed bone. After eight and a half years in prison, Richard was finally released in a general amnesty in 1956. Strictly warned not to preach, he went immediately back to his work in the underground church.

In 1959 he was arrested again after an associate conspired against him. He was accused of preaching against communist doctrine, and sentenced to twenty-five years in prison. As he embraced his wife before leaving her for the second time, she

² Morse Code, either of two systems for representing letters of the alphabet, numerals, and punctuation marks by an arrangement of dots, dashes, and spaces.

encouraged him to keep up their evangelistic work, saying, “Richard, remember that it is written, ‘You will be brought before rulers and kings to be a testimony unto them.’”

During Richard’s second imprisonment, Sabina was once again told that her husband had died. This time she did not believe it. In 1964, due to increased political pressure from Western countries, Richard was once again granted amnesty and released. Fearing that he would continue getting himself arrested, the Norwegian Mission to the Jews and the Hebrew Christian Alliance negotiated with Romanian authorities to release Richard and Sabina from the country for \$10,000.

In 1966 Richard testified before the US Senate’s Internal Security Subcommittee. During his testimony, he pulled off his shirt to reveal eighteen deep scars from the torture he had experienced in the communist prisons. “My body represents Romania, my country, which has been tortured to a point that it can no longer weep,” he told the subcommittee. “These marks on my body are my credentials.”

In April 1967, Richard and Sabina formed an interdenominational organization to support the persecuted church in communist countries. They called it Jesus to the Communist World. But as they expanded their mission to include persecuted Christians in other parts of the world, including Muslim countries, the organization was renamed The Voice of the Martyrs.

In 1990, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Wurmbrands finally returned to Romania. They had spent twenty-five years in exile from their homeland. Though Richard retired from his work with The Voice of the Martyrs in 1992, he and Sabina continued to support the organization and the world’s underground churches.



Afghan Refugee Support.

**“God defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing”
(Deuteronomy 10:18).**

The church council has voted to start a campaign to collect items to support the Afghan refugees in Wisconsin. Here is the list of items needed:

- Socks and underwear for men, women, and children in all sizes.
- New or very gently used and clean winter coats and hats for men and women, sizes **small and medium**. Please note: we are unable to accept any other clothing at this time. (LSS)
- Toiletries kits*: personal items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste/toothbrushes.
- Kitchen kits*: pots and pans, tableware, mixing bowls, etc.
- Cleaning supplies kits*: dish soap, laundry detergent, sponges.
- Linens kits: bath towels, sheets, blankets.

The deadline for collecting the items above is **January 1, 2022**.

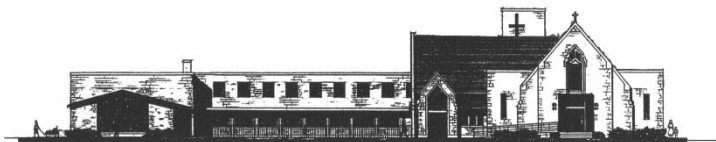
***These individual kits will be securely packaged as individual kits.**

We will be asking for **volunteers** to assemble the kits. We will drop them at **LSS Refugee Resettlement Office in Milwaukee, WI**. If you are giving a monetary donation, please make your check payable to “Immanuel Lutheran Church” with LSS in the memo.



ILC History Hub

IMMANUEL HISTORY –



IMMANUEL IN WORLD WAR II

Pastor Victor Quello was installed as pastor of Immanuel on December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese (eighty years ago). It was an afternoon ceremony conducted by his father, Rev. J.A. Quello. There is no record of how the news of the attack affected what was supposed to be a

festive occasion, but it must have muted the attention normally given to a new pastor.

Sixty-eight men from Immanuel served in the military during the war. Carson Cole, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carson Cole, was killed in action. Pastor Quello recalled how hard it was to comfort the Coles during their time of grief. The war created new demands on the pastor. Quello mailed two sermons a month as well as a long “newsy” letter to all the soldiers from the congregation, prompting him to ask the church council to hire secretarial help for this project. It was the first time that a secretary was hired to help the pastor.

--- Al Solomonson



Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Service

Rev. Mggr. Mark Pierce
St. Michael Catholic Church,
&
Vicar Maggie Westaby!!!
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Thank you for all who made this service possible!!!



Thank you for your Generosity!!!!

Thank You

Thank you, Bob Henning, for recording our services each Sunday. Thank you Joanne Diestelhorst and others who helped with the Pie Social. Thank you, Maggie & Sally, for leading worship service.

This information is taken from ELCA
Stories of Faith

2020 FINANCIAL PICTURE

In 2020, ELCA members gave **\$1.7 billion** in unrestricted offerings* to support God's mission and ministry through the three expressions of the ELCA. Thank you for your generosity!

94.7% — CONGREGATIONS

\$1.6 billion was stewarded by over 8,900 ELCA congregations.
\$90.2 million was shared by congregations as Mission Support.

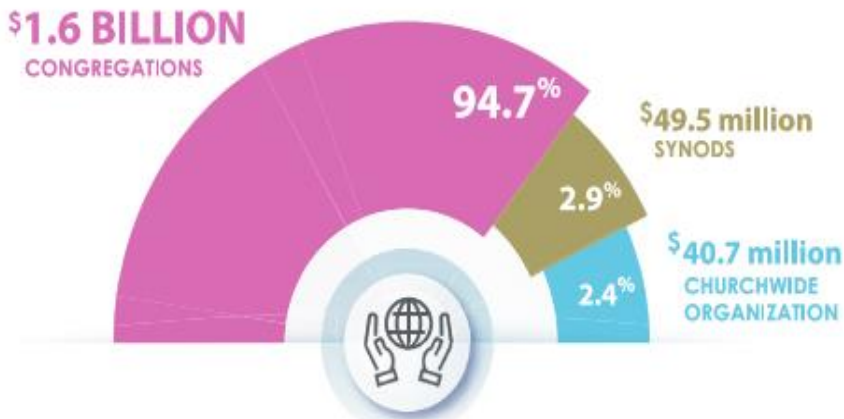
2.9% — SYNODS

\$49.5 million in Mission Support was stewarded by the ELCA's 65 synods.

2.4% — CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

\$40.7 million in Mission Support was stewarded by the ELCA churchwide organization.

**Unrestricted offerings do not include special offerings (e.g., congregational capital improvements or gifts to ministries such as Lutheran Disaster Response or ELCA World Hunger).*



Read on for stories of faith in action —
made possible by Mission Support!



ILC is collecting **mittens and hats** during December to donate them to families in need in our community. Please place your donations under the Mitten Tree in the Narthex.



PLEASE NOTE: ILC Sunday Morning Services are **40 minutes** long due to COVID-19.

ILC January 2022 Newsletter. The next newsletter will be the January 2022 Edition. The deadline for submissions will be December 27, 2021.



We need volunteers for Sunday School and to videotape the worship service. We also need hosts for coffee hour. There is a sign-up sheet for that. Thank you!

Noisy Offering. Just a reminder that there is a large silver bowl by the church office entrance for your noisy (coin) offerings. Thank you in advance for doing this.



A Canaan Olive Oil is Available in the Church Office.

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 \$25.00. 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!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Adult Forum in Emmaus Room at 10:30 am

The Sin of White Supremacy Christianity, Racism, and Religious Diversity in America by Jeannine Hill Fletcher

How have Christian theologies of religious superiority underwritten ideologies of white supremacy in the United States? According to Hill Fletcher, the tendency of Christians to view

themselves as the "chosen ones" has often been translated into racial categories as well. In other words, Christian supremacy has historically lent itself to white supremacy, with disastrous consequences.

How might we start to disentangle the two? Hill Fletcher proposes educational strategies that will help foster racial healing in America, the first of which is to demand of white Christians that they accept their responsibility for racist policies and structural discrimination in America.

The schedule will be as following:

1. Sunday, December 5, 2021. How Christian Supremacy Gave Birth to White Supremacy
2. Sunday, December 12, 2021. The Witchcraft of White Supremacy
3. Sunday, December 19, 2021. When Words Create Worlds
4. Sunday, January 9, 2022. The Symbolic Capital of New Testament Love
5. Sunday, January 23, 2022. Christ Crucified
6. Sunday, February 6, 2022. Christian Love in a Weighted World



Saturday, December 4, 2021, Kristen and Adam Doede will have a Christian Wedding at ILC on Congratulations!!!!

Saturday, December 18, 2021, ILC Bell Choir will play at Wausau Farmers Market located in Whitewater Music Hall, 130 1st St, Wausau, WI 54403!

More information will be provided.

Sunday, December 19, 2021, Christmas Pageant.



You are encouraged to bring Christmas Cookies to share during the coffee hour



Monday, December 20, 2021, Church Council Meeting at 6:00 pm.

Friday, December 24, 2021, Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm.

Saturday, December 25, 2021, Christmas Day. No service.

Sunday, December 26, 2021, Christmas Carol Service at 9 am.

Monday, December 27, 2021, Deadline for Monthly Newsletter.

Wednesday, December 29, 2021. Year-End Giving Deadline. Members' contributions for the 2020 Tax Year must be submitted by this date.

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

Autumn Lane Family Care, 384 Lyons Rd.,
Birnamwood, WI 54414

▶ **Jeff Groethe**
(715) 449-3444

Our House Memory Care
220 Campus Drive,
Wausau, WI 54403

▶ **Pat Stolen, #7**

Our House Memory Care
220 Campus Drive,
Wausau, WI 54403

▶ **Tom McDonell, #11**

Stone Crest Residence,
805 Parcher St, Wausau,
WI 54403

▶ **Joanne Cerny, #7**

Heritage House of Portage, 2685 Airport
Road, Portage, WI 53901

▶ **Esther Osterby, #43**

Riverview Terrace, 540 E.
Thomas St., Wausau, WI
54401 (715) 675-4073

▶ **Joyce Lohrey, #207**

Bell Tower Residence,
1500 O'Day St, Merrill, WI
54452 (715) 359-0197

▶ **Carol Hettinga, Rm 307**

Our House Senior Living,
210 West Campus Drive,
Wausau, WI 54401

▶ **Joan Bergeth, #6**

Primrose Memory Care of Wausau, 7704 Franciscan
Way, Weston, WI

▶ **Judy Blanchfield, Apt #22**

Primrose Retirement Community

2100 Townline Rd,
Wausau, WI 54403:

▶ **Thelma Bursik, Apt #101**
(715)297-1785

▶ **Charlotte Traeger, Apt #215**
(715) 298-9421

▶ **Kathy Groethe, Apt #219**
(715) 841-0130

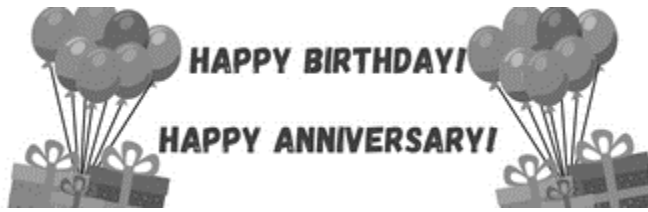
Home

▶ **Ann Kurth**
2806 Polzer Drive
Wausau, WI 54401
(715) 298-1942

▶ **Jeanette Petterson**
605 Eagle Nest Blvd.
Apt. 208
Rothschild, WI 54474
(715) 359-0449

▶ **Pat Stricker**
1403 Stark Street
Wausau, WI 54403
(715) 842-1304

▶ **Carolyn Viergutz**
N114 W17117 Cove Ct
Germantown, WI 53022



December 2021

Birthdays. The following individuals are celebrating their birthday in December. Happy Birthday to all of you! Lisa Scobell (12/04), Bruce Knox (12/07), Carol Hazen (12/08), John Burk Sr (12/11), Megan Loquist (12/12), Charlotte Traeger (12/12), Glenn Rusch (12/13), Holly Westaby (12/15), Rebecca Case (12/18), Doug Helling (12/19), Carol Hettinga (12/21), Niveen Sarras (12/21), Jane Reilly-Smith (12/23), Ken Strasser (12/24), Mike Dellenbach (12/27), Linda Swenson (12/27), Joyce Lohr (12/30), Mary McDonell (12/31)

December 2021 Anniversaries: Scott & Andrea Schafer (13 years) 12/13

May your heart and home be filled with Peace and Joy this Christmas Season



THE STAFF AT IMMANUEL



ILC Income/Expense Report

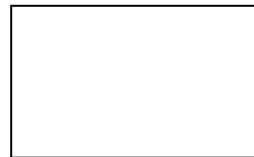
Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Deposit
January	\$15,154	\$50,569		(\$35,415)	\$1,435	\$16,589
February	\$10,412	\$6,836		\$3,577	\$1,769	\$12,181
March	\$21,050.25	\$8,461.32		\$12,589	\$1,380.00	\$22,430
April	\$12,822	\$23,946		(\$11,124)	\$1,286.08	\$14,108
May	\$8,643	\$13,926		(\$5,283)	\$566.31	\$9,209
June	\$17,323	\$10,224		\$7,100	\$1,235.00	\$18,558
July	\$12,997	\$13,475		(\$478)	\$960.00	\$13,957
August	\$11,021	\$15,154		(\$4,133)	\$1,480.00	\$12,501
September	\$12,859	\$8,483		\$4,376	\$1,211.00	\$14,070
October	\$11,554	\$9,488		\$2,066	\$1,465.00	\$13,019
November						
December				\$0		

Totals **\$133,835.85** **\$160,560.80** **(\$26,725)** **\$12,787** **\$146,623**

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes: No minutes for this month.

IMMANUEL News December 2021

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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office
info@immanuelwausau.org
Monday—Thursday 9am-3pm
Phone: (715) 842-3644
For emergency call 510-355-4352
Website: www.immanuelwausau.org



Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church
on Facebook: @ILC Wausau

Online Worship Services:

Monday Afternoon on YouTube
(check your email for link)

TV Worship Services:

Charter Cable Channel 980
5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15 am Thursday