

# Immanuel News



## January 2021

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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 God, 2021 has just started. I pray that this year will bring an end to COVID-19 and there will be more opportunities to resume worship in-person, hang out with friends, recovery for the economy, and that people will be able to visit their homebound family members and friends once again. I long for more freedom, and better health and life quality. I am afraid that the little light of hope that I have will extinguish by more obstacles in 2021. When I question your plan for me, remind me of the plans you have for me in 2021 are plans to prosper me and not to harm me, plans to give me hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

I am weary by 2020, and I cry out to you, Lord, from the depth of my heart and soul to let your light shine on your world regardless of what 2021 may bring. I am afraid that my weariness makes me stumble. If this happens, raise me up. Please help me to trust your goodness for today and strengthen me to face tomorrow with

a brave heart. Send your Holy Spirit to lead and guide me when life is tough. I need your peace, Lord, and encouragement to continue to praise you in 2021.

Sometimes, Satan whispers into my ear in my most vulnerable moment to make me doubt your grace and mercy. So, please help me to resist his lies. Inspire me to depend on your word to defeat him, as Jesus Christ did. I have learned from my faith journey that “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105). No matter what 2021 brings, I am going to fix my eyes on you. Regardless of what will happen in 2021, I know that when I lift up my eyes to the hills, my help comes from you, Lord, who made heaven and earth (Psalm 121:1-2).

“Lord God, you have called me your servant to ventures of which I cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give me faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where I go, but only that your hand is leading me and your love supporting me.”<sup>1</sup>

O God, you are the fountain of every blessing, and through you, I receive new mercy and grace every day. Gracious God, keep me close to you and shine your face on me so that the devil cannot overcome me. As you walk with me in 2021, help me walk with those trapped in the darkness.

All glory to you, O God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Your daughter,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras, Ph.D

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<sup>1</sup> ELW Evening Prayer.

## Synod Staff Announcement



Pastor Amy Engebose, Bishop's Associate for Rostered Leadership and Congregations in Transition, will be leaving the synod staff to return to parish ministry. She has been called to be the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Neenah. We will ask God to bless this transition in ministry for Pastor Amy and for our synod as part of a synod-wide Zoom worship service on January 9 at 1 pm (link and more information about this service will follow.)

Pastor Asher O'Callaghan (pictured) was called by the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Council on December 28 to be Associate to the Bishop, Director for Transitions and Discernment. His first day will be Feb. 3. Pastor Asher is currently serving as pastor at Highlands

Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado.

**Mitten Tree:** The Mitten Tree is set up. It will be available through the end of January. You may bring donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and sweaters to put under the tree. The items collected will be taken to the Neighbor's Place. Please contact Janci for additional information.

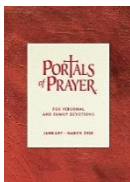


**Holy Communion is now available at ILC.** This table is located by the front office. Each package contains the Body of Christ and a prayer. Pastor Niveen has blessed each one. All the packages were assembled using the highest sanitizing measures.

**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.

**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.

**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!



**The devotional books *Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home*** for January-March 2021 have arrived. They will be on the pew near the office entrance. If you would like to have one or both mailed to you, please call the church office.

**ILC Semi-Annual Meeting Update:** Enclosed in this newsletter, is the 2021 budget which we are currently operating under. You will be asked to approve this budget during the next Semi-Annual Meeting in May 2021.

**ILC Worship In-Person Update:** The church council will meet in January to determine when we will resume in-person worship services. Watch for your email with this announcement.



With our most profound sorrow, we inform you of the death of our beloved friend Dale Kurth **on Thursday, December 17, 2020**, at Aspirus Hospital. Due to COVID-19, a service for Dale will be limited to his immediate family. Please keep his wife, Annabelle, and his children in your prayers. For sending Annabelle a sympathy card, please mail it to 2806 Polzer Dr. Wausau, WI 54401.



**Mark your calendar!**

**Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6pm** will be the next confirmation class (virtual).

**Thursday, January 14, 2021.** 2020 Contribution Statements will be available

for pickup. A table will be set up by the entrance of the church office. Any statements that are not picked up will be mailed on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

**Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 10am.** Adult Forum: ELCA “Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy.” You are encouraged to read the social statement before attending the virtual adult forum. Check the link below:

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government>

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*Thank You*

**Mary McDonell for counting each week.**

**Jill Preston for Awesome Cleaning!**

**Al Solomonson and Floyd Hallberg for shoveling our sidewalks and entrance.**

**Thank you to the members of the Altar Guild for their diligence in their work of preparing our Altar and Chancel earlier for Advent and Christmas Services.**

**Jackie Loos**, you really did a yeoman’s job during advent and Christmas... taping, reading, and handling your office responsibilities plus a million other spur of the moment requests. Thank you so much, *Argelee Drown*.

*Thank You*

**Breaking News!** The stewardship committee says thank you to all the members of the congregation who have sent in their 2021 estimate of giving cards! **We would also encourage those members who have not sent their cards in yet to do so as soon as possible.** The 2021 budget is being assembled and your cooperation will be of help in that

process.

## ILC History Hub

### IMMANUEL HISTORY –



### WHEN IMMANUEL WAS AN ETHNIC CONGREGATION

For many decades after its founding in 1883, Immanuel was the center of the Norwegian immigrant community in Wausau. One can imagine how grateful the local Norwegians were to be able to worship in their own language and to communicate socially without having to use the halting English they probably were acquiring in their workplace. Moreover, most had left their homeland knowing that they would not see their parents and other loved ones again. The Immanuel congregation became a close knit community for them, a friendly harbor in a sea of strangers, and a substitute for the family and home they had left. The Norwegians were a small minority in a river town that was still seen as a wilderness settlement populated by Yankees from New England and a majority of German immigrants.

Wausau grew into a city and cracks in the Norwegian ethnic foundation began to appear. Pastor Boe was called by Immanuel in 1903 with the stipulation that he would be conversant in the English language. Obviously, there were young members who were beginning to feel comfortable within the American culture that was no longer so foreign to them. Norwegian was still the lingua franca of the congregation, however. Worship was conducted in Norwegian until the 1920s when Sunday morning services and business matters were conducted in English and worship in Norwegian was scheduled for Sunday afternoons, most likely on a monthly basis. There are no records of Norwegian services after 1932, although there were probably funerals conducted and individual communion given in Norwegian into the 1940s. Perhaps there remained older

members who were certain that the preferred language in heaven was Norwegian.

Immanuel's status of being the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Wausau is now in the distant past, but we still keep reminders of some of the Norwegian traditions as evidenced by the rosemaling in the kitchen and the Norwegian table prayer posted on the wall in the Fellowship Hall. Until the pandemic interfered this year, the congregation continued its long history of making lefse in its kitchen. The congregation has had a lot of pastors in its history and, until Pastor Sean Motley, all senior pastors have had a Norwegian heritage. The last pastor to have conversational skill in Norwegian was Pastor Eikeland (1952-60). We still enjoy gathering in Fellowship Hall with a cup of coffee in hand. Our Norwegian forebears would be happy to know that.

--- Al Solomonson

### ILC Monthly Word Search

L O Y B F A X Y P G S I B H K  
X T C J A D W N A R Z D T E U  
A H E E Z P H M G Y G R Y L I  
U P S A L Z T U D J A N S E E  
R L S T S N I I O R L N J W W  
E P I P H A N Y S I O D C P P  
S S Q F W R S D G M E W R L X  
H M S O Q Z T H W T W M E J Z  
S D Q V K O T F N U A P A U D  
L Z T C L P C I E U T F A V U  
B C I G A M O C V T E F X E E  
C X I R B N C Y O H R W S C F  
F T E O N Q F V D Q J F H G D  
P P I A B O O X E X O D Z B T  
X D T O D R R K Z H P O V X P

ANNOINTED
BAPTISM
DOVE
EPIPHANY
LIGHT
MAGI
WATER
WORD

# 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>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</p>	<p><b>Carolyn Viergutz</b> N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022</p>
<p><b>Riverview Terrace</b> 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ <b>Joyce Lohrey</b>, #207 (715) 675-4073</p>	<p>▶ <b>Charlotte Traeger</b>, Apt #215 (715) 298-9421 ▶ <b>Judy Blanchfield</b>, Apt #132 (715) 845-3744</p>	<p><b>Pat Stricker</b> 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1304</p>
<p><b>Heritage House of Portage</b> 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901 ▶ <b>Esther Osterby</b>, #43</p>	<p>▶ <b>Kathy Groethe</b>, Apt #219 (715) 841-0130</p>	<p><b>Jeanette Petterson</b> 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474 (715) 359-0449</p>
<p><b>Stone Crest Residence</b> 805 Parcher St Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ <b>Joanne Cerny</b>, #7</p>	<p><b>Autumn Lane Family Care</b> 384 Lyons Rd. Birnamwood, WI 54414 ▶ <b>Jeff Groethe</b> (715) 449-3444</p>	<p><b>Ann Kurth</b> 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 298-1942</p>





## Happy Birthday!

### January 2021 Birthdays

Dan Dellenbach	01/03
Jennifer Schafer	01/04
Dustin Sedlar	01/05
Sarah Doede	01/06
Susan Schwede	01/06
Angela Lenselink	01/08
Michael Steltenpohl	01/08
Harlan Grinde	01/09
Elaine Grinde	01/10
Jeffrey Burk	01/12
Connie Lewitzke	01/12
Megan Bickford	01/13
Clair Baker	01/14
Linda Hulstrom	01/15
Jamie Rice-Heckendorf	01/18
Marge Warner	01/22
Scott Schafer	01/25
Vern Diestelhorst	01/26
Corey Busche	01/29

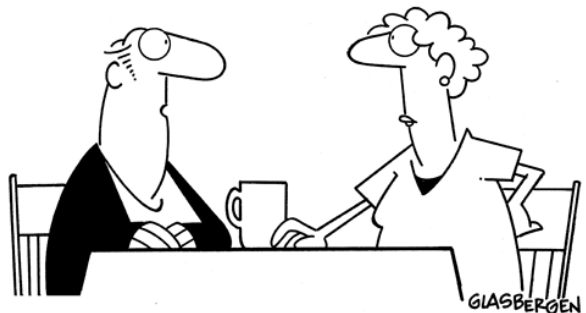
## Happy Anniversary!

to these  
Special Couples

*The following couples are celebrating  
their Wedding Anniversary this month:*

<b>01/01</b>	<b>Jerry &amp; Judy Nickolai</b>	<b>38 years</b>
<b>01/07</b>	<b>Bruce &amp; Kathy Knox</b>	<b>45 years</b>
<b>01/20</b>	<b>Jim &amp; Pat Stolen</b>	<b>53 years</b>
<b>01/24</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Sue Doede</b>	<b>45 years</b>

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**"I talked about my feelings on our wedding day.  
If anything changes, I'll let you know."**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church      2020 Income vs Expenses**

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Deposits
January	\$13,557	\$15,160		(\$1,603)	\$909	\$14,466
February	\$27,289	\$6,321		\$20,968	\$487	\$27,777
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	\$12,340		\$1,247	\$1,250.00	\$14,837
July	\$11,729	\$6,188		\$5,541	\$2,244.00	\$13,973
August	\$11,976	\$5,615		\$6,361	1050	13026.1
September	\$12,322	\$4,177		\$8,145	\$1,830.00	\$14,152
October	\$10,242	\$4,439		\$5,803	2524.48	\$12,766
November	\$10,933	\$7,422		\$3,511	978.62	11911.73
December				\$0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$163,234.95</b>	<b>\$92,208.21</b>		<b>\$71,027</b>	<b>\$15,935</b>	<b>\$179,170</b>

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Tuesday, November 23, 2020**  
Meeting via Zoom

Members present: Pastor Niveen Sarras, President Bob Henning, vice-president Linda Hulstrom, Treasurer Matt Munson, financial secretary Patti Busche, stewardship Rick Lohr and worship Judy Kort.

Members absent: Judy Nickolai

1. Devotions were led by Bob based on Psalm 123:3. Ask the Lord to have mercy on us as we are filled with contempt. The state of mind is powerful and can distract away our attention from God.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 by Bob Henning.

2. Pastor's report

- a. Thanksgiving service with St. Michael Catholic Church has been canceled due to COVID- 19 surge in Wisconsin.
- b. The Wisconsin River Conference has prepared a virtual Thanksgiving worship service, which I will share with ILC.
- c. Virtual Mid-week Advent is going to be ready and shared with ILC. The confirmation class takes part in the service.
- d. A children's booklet on the history of Thanksgiving has been mailed to our Sunday school children.
- e. Altar guild is going to put a few Christmas decorations in the sanctuary.

- f. Jackie has learned to videotape the sanctuary's worship service, which makes virtual service easier to accomplish.
- g. Zoom Bible study will begin on Sunday 29, 2020, at 10 AM. We will study a book titled Radical Reconciliation.
- h. Jackie and I will put "Good Gifts Tree," and we will prepare a short video introduction about it.
- i. Due to the complaint about receiving the Holy Communion smashed in the mail, Dwala, the altar guild committee chair, and Sally Johnson, the committee secretary, have suggested stopping mailing the Holy Communion. We can only mail it to those who request it.
- j. I will give a virtual sermon on Sunday, November 29, 2020, at McMinnville Cooperative Ministries in Oregon.

### 3. Worship:

- a) Three of the 5 committee members feel now is not the time to change the Evangelism duties over to the Worship committee. All members are willing to assist as needed though.
- b) Discussed Christmas Eve services. Decision was to allow in-person services at 4:00 and 7:00 and pre-registration required. Information will be put in the December Newsletter, in the bulletin and via email. When registering they must provide name, phone number and # of attending. Reservations due on 12/22.
- c) Cleaning must be performed between services. Individual candles will not be used.
- d) There will not be a service on Christmas Day. There will be a service on 12/27.

4. Reviewed minutes from the 10/22 meeting. Motion made to approve by Rick; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt.

5. Treasurer report. Matt provided his report. Last year we intended to give \$500 from Social Concerns to Neighbors Place but that was not done. This year we will take \$400 from Social Concerns budget and \$100 from another category to be reviewed and identified by Matt. No objections made for Matt to handle. Discussed putting a bowl in the office to collect noisy offering as members have been saving their coins. Motion made by Linda to receive and hold for audit; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Kort. Motion approved.

6. Financial Secretary Report. Patti provided report. Memorial contributions for Barb Peterson have been designated to the choir. Motion made by Linda to receive and hold for audit; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Kort. Motion approved.

7. Vice President's report. Linda found a blank ballot to use for the May election. Jane Reilly-Smith has agreed to run for Financial Secretary. Patti will work on training in the spring. There will not be a congregational meeting in January. The final vote on the budget will be in May. The council will be approving the budget at the 12/22/20 meeting to become effective 1/1/2021. The vote in May will be to approve the council's action on the budget. Bob will get a note about this in the December Newsletter.
8. President's Report- nothing to report.
9. Stewardship –they are meeting next week to tally to pledge cards, work on thank you cards and reminders letters. They will also discuss how to handle Time & Talent. Congratulations from the council to the committee for the well-done job on the video.
10. Education – nothing to report.
11. Properties – nothing to report
12. Social Concerns – nothing to report
13. Evangelism – nothing to report.
14. Other business:
  - a. Pastor & Jackie looked into internet access for the Sanctuary. \$1350 cost would include the hardware with 4 access points, the controller appliance, cables and tech services with 1-year warranty. Council asked of there would be additional fees from Charter. And if possible, a hot spot handle what is needed with a monthly fee. Further investigation is needed.
  - b. Jackie is looking into an in-office postal service. This will save her time from going to the post office. Bob will meet with her to review the details.
  - c. Matt asked to put in an Endowment request for a laptop for the bookkeeper. This way he could do more work from home during this safer at home period. Such a request wouldn't occur until fall as that is when they accept requests. Council discussion included shuffling existing computers to allow him to take an existing laptop home. There were concerns about fee for an extra license for QuickBooks.
  - d. Next meeting will be 12/22 at 6 p.m. The only agenda items will be Christmas Eve service and the 2021 budget.

Motion to adjourn by Judy Kort; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patti. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Busche

Financial Secretary



*A brief silence.*

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer, that God shower compassion, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Lord we lift up before you all who are in need of your help . We pray especially for Thelma, Esther, Kathrine-Sylvia, Abber, Jazel, Joelle, Odeh, April, Brianna, Alice, Charissa, Scott, Phyllis, Mary, Ashley, Laura, David, Sara, Jeff, Edie, Joan, Jamie & Mike, Ted, Pastor Mark (Dixie Burk's Brother), Maggie Westaby, Sonya, and Jim Palmer. let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, we especially remember Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968, and the church commemorates him on Friday. let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray...

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Sharing of Peace**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn**

**“That Boy-Child of Mary”**

**#293 vv.1,5,6**

**Offering Prayer**

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn**

**“Rise, Shine, You People”**

**#665**

**Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Let us say our ILC Mission Statement**

**C:** We are a fellowship of believers committed to live and share God's love by serving our community and the world.

**Have a blessed Epiphany  
Season!**

**IMMANUEL News January 2021**

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 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](http://www.immanuelwausau.org)



Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church  
on Facebook: **@ILC Wausau**

**Online Worship Services:**  
Sunday Afternoon on YouTube  
(check your email for link)

**TV Worship Services:**  
Charter Cable Channel 980  
5:45 PM Tuesday & 9:15 AM Thursday