

Immanuel News



May 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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church family,

Greetings to you from Mexico City. My visit to Mexico and meeting my new friends from the Lutheran Church in Mexico has inspired me to talk about Baptism. In his letter to Ephesians 4:5, the apostle Paul teaches, "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Our faith and our Baptism unite Christians in the whole world with one another.

I ask myself, what is the right way to perform the rite of Baptism? The church, over the centuries, has performed Baptism by sprinkling or pouring water on the head or by immersing in water either wholly or partially. The apostle Paul compared Baptism to a burial (Romans 6:3-4). Both the burial and cleansing are symbolized by being completely immersed in water. John the Baptist baptized people "in" the Jordan River, which implies immersion. Another popular

argument for "immersion only" is that the Greek word "baptizo," which is used in the New Testament, means immersion. However, "baptizo" doesn't always mean "immersion." Sometimes it merely means "washing up." Certain Christian mosaics from the first few centuries after Christ also seem to depict Baptism through pouring.

One of the important books that talks about baptism is the Didache. This term is a Greek word that means teaching. The book is also known as "The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations." It is from the late 2nd century AD and talks about Baptism. The author instructs that "baptism is to be conferred" in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit with triple immersion in "living water" (that is, flowing water, probably in a stream). If that is not practical, cold or even warm water is acceptable. If the water is insufficient for immersion, it may be poured three times on the head (affusion). The baptized and the baptizer, and, if possible, anyone else attending the ritual should fast for one or two days beforehand."

Baptism with water goes hand-in-hand with Baptism with the Holy Spirit. "Unless a person is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). What matters is that we are baptized, and as the apostle Paul says in his letter to the Galatians 3:27, "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Rejoice in your Baptism and live according to your baptismal vows.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibraheem Sarras, Ph.D

ILC Worship In-Person Services:

- **May 2, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required.

10:30 AM No service

Reverend Kathy Tulman, a Supply Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Tomahawk, WI, will preach and cover for Pastor Niveen during her visit to Mexico.

- **May 9, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks optional -- Mother's Day!
- **May 14th & 15th, 2021.** Our Virtual Synod Assembly. Al & Vonnie Solomonson will represent ILC.
- **May 16, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required.
- **May 16th, 10:30 AM:** Synod-Wide Sunday Worship. Including the installation of Associate to the Bishop, Director for Transitions and Discernment, Rev. Asher O'Callaghan Bishop Anne Edison-Albright will be preaching and presiding. Asher O'Callaghan. Bishop Anne Edison-Albright will be preaching and presiding. We will send you the link for the service.
- **May 23, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks optional
- **May 30, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required-- Trinity Sunday. Trinity Lutheran Seminary will be offering a complete pre-recorded online worship service, as well as a version with just the sermon by the Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans).

Future dates and options will be published on our website.

Confirmation Class Camp

On February 16, 2021, the Church Council decided to launch a campaign to raise funds for our confirmation class to attend confirmation camp this summer.

We have great news to share! We have raised \$1,100, which means we have met our goal. We have three participants: Grace and Emily Kallio, and Alex Munson. Thank you for your contributions! The church and the participants are very grateful.

Living
Lutheran **Do you Know?**

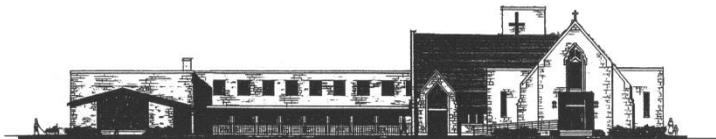
You can listen to Living Lutheran magazine

Issues online at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. This event began Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Through your generous giving, ILC raised \$700. Thank you to all who contributed to this important cause. Your generosity was critical to supporting people around the world facing hunger and poverty.

ILC History Hub

**IMMANUEL
HISTORY –**



THE DECADE OF THE SIXTIES AT IMMANUEL Part Three

The Mission Lake Bible Camp near Bevent was the site of a weeklong confirmation camp. Expectations for confirmation students were high, but many confirmands considered it to be a highlight of their class experience. Attendance at this camp was an expectation that was continued for many decades after. The first day of camp typically began with a Sunday worship service and congregational picnic at the camp, a tradition that was a highlight in itself.

Camp costs were minimal because of the funding provided by the women's organization of the congregation. Outdoor games were played, canoes made available, and even swimming was done if weather was warm enough. The congregation went home in the afternoon, the campers stayed for the rest of the week.

Pastor Hoven initiated more involvement of the laity. Scriptural lessons of the day were read with increased frequency by members until it became an expected part of the worship ritual. Occasional sermons were given by members; congregants were impressed with the talent we had in our membership. Confirmation age boys had traditionally performed acolyte duties, but for the first time girls were assigned that duty as well. Sunday school teaching had always been viewed as a duty of the membership, but the adult Bible study was now also taught by members.

The ALC started a mission congregation, to be called Good Shepherd, in the Riverview area in 1965. Pastor Hoven and Immanuel were most supportive of this endeavor, and encouraged members living on the north end of the city to join the new congregation. Immanuel lost about 70 members to Good Shepherd. Immanuel was unofficially the mother church of Good Shepherd. This new mission church eventually experienced rapid growth, but it also made it more difficult for Immanuel to attract new members from the north end of Wausau.

There were two major building projects completed in the sixties, both in the latter part of the decade. The middle wing of the church was completed in 1968. Norman Lang chaired the building committee and used his business acumen to ensure that the construction was done properly. The west wing had been accessible through the basement of the anticipated middle wing for about ten years. The pastor now had a nice office with an inviting entrance and reception area. It also included a meeting/conference room with comfortable furniture and a kitchenette. It was widely used by the congregation. The former office of the pastor, in the northeast corner of the main structure, was used by visitation or assistant pastors while the former receptionist/secretarial office was used solely

by the altar guild. Needed Sunday school classroom space was added on the second floor of the new unit. In 1965 it was decided to tear down the parsonage closely adjacent to the church and build a new parsonage, a project that was completed by member contractor, Bob Mitchell, at Ninth and Augusta at a cost of \$30,000. It served the congregation into the 1980s when Pastor Melby decided to buy his own home, a practice that was becoming more popular with urban pastors. The parsonage was sold and the funds kept for special projects.

In 1969, funds were raised for a new Schantz pipe organ to be built by master organ builder, Paul Bunjes. Financial contributions came rather quickly because the new instrument would be dedicated to the memory of Pastor Fridtjof Eikeland who died in 1960. The new organ was a welcome addition to the church worship experience. David Riege, a local music teacher, was chairperson of the organ committee. Rosemary Roehl, who recently had replaced Ethel Erickson as the organist, was enthusiastic about the project and did most of the planning for the dedication held on March 1, 1970. She was the church organist for many decades after.

During this decade an education allowance was put into the budget, an item that was used with profit by Pastor Hoven to attend classes and conference that would deepen his understanding of his Christian ministry. Hereafter, the congregation gave welcome support and encouragement to pastors who needed opportunities to reinvigorate their ministry through educational opportunity. We did not want the intellectual capabilities of our pastors to remain static nor slip into mediocrity.

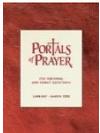
As mentioned previously, there were many aspects of Pastor Duane Hoven's ministry that helped Immanuel define itself as a congregation. He addressed the issues of civil rights, ecumenism, youth participation, and committed the members to an organized study of the Bible through the Bethel Series. Immanuel became known in the area as a congregation that was willing to accept change with an understanding that our Christian commitment as members extended beyond the walls of our building structure. Given the emphasis on

ecumenism emphasized by Hoven, we should not be surprised that Pastor Sarras, only a month ago, organized and presented an entire Lenten service of Biblical study on the book of Amos at St. Michael Catholic, becoming the first Lutheran pastor in the city to take on such a task at a Roman Catholic Church – and a female pastor at that. Similar to the sixties, her sermons are often directed to our scriptural responsibility to be active “in” the world, confronting injustice and poverty where it exists. In many ways the mission to promote tolerance and understanding that became a hallmark of Immanuel in the sixties, continues.---

Al Solomonson

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.

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.



The devotional books Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home for April-June 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.

Thank You

Mary McDonell for counting each week, week after week, month after month. And thank you, Kathy Knox for assisting Mary! We appreciate you both!

Jill Preston for Awesome Cleaning.

Matt Munson for keeping the Church's finances in order.

ILC Summer Edition Newsletter. The next newsletter will be the Summer Edition which will include the months June, July and August. The deadline for submissions will be May 24, 2021.

A Canaan Olive Oil Update.

In the last year, the value of the dollar has dropped by 15% against the local currency in Palestine. In addition, farm gate prices increased by 15%, the 2020 olive harvest season was exceptionally low compared to previous years, the Canaan products were significantly undervalued in the market in previous years, and actions to correct the issue by adjusting prices were never taken. Of course, the impact of COVID 19 resulted in restrictions to their business and to the farmers also.



As a result of these factors, Canaan has needed to make necessary financial adjustments. The price of the olive oil as increased. We will now buy a bottle at a cost of **\$25.00**. While the increase is significant, please consider that you are not merely buying olive oil. You are also investing in the welfare of the Palestinian farm families, making their lives less burdensome. You are providing hope.

Our olive oil ministry will continue, God's Work, Our Hands.

ELCA Peace Not Walls Update: The ELCA's Peace Not Walls campaign works for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine. How has COVID-19 impacted the local Lutheran church in the Holy Land? How has Augusta Victoria Hospital dealt with COVID-19? Watch this 5 MINUTE video to learn more: <https://vimeo.com/538797748/1fa1ffe11d>

Additional information is also available here: <https://elca.org/peacenotwalls>

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>Bell Tower Residence 1500 O’Day St Merrill, WI 54452 ▶ Carol Hettinga, Rm 307 (715) 359-0197</p> <p>Riverview Terrace 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ Joyce Lohrey, #207 (715) 675-4073</p> <p>Heritage House of Portage 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901 ▶ Esther Osterby, #43</p> <p>Stone Crest Residence 805 Parcher St Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Joanne Cerny, #7</p> <p>Our House Memory Care 220 Campus Drive Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Pat Stolen, #7</p>	<p>Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Thelma Bursik, Apt #101 (715)297-1785 ▶ Charlotte Traeger, Apt #215 (715) 298-9421 ▶ Judy Blanchfield, Apt #132 (715) 845-3744 ▶ Kathy Groethe, Apt #219 (715) 841-0130</p> <p>Autumn Lane Family Care 384 Lyons Rd. Birnarnwood, WI 54414 ▶ Jeff Groethe (715) 449-3444</p>	<p>Carolyn Viergutz N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022</p> <p>Pat Stricker 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1304</p> <p>Jeanette Petterson 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474 (715) 359-0449</p> <p>Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 298-1942</p>



The following individuals are celebrating their birthday in May. Happy Birthday to all of you!

May 2021 Birthdays

Vonnie Solomonson (05/01), Sally Scinto-Reinertson (05/08), Thomas Mueller (05/09), Floyd Hallberg (05/11), Judy Nickolai (05/15), Reuben Roehl (05/15), Emily Kallio (05/20), Grace Kallio (05/20), Arzelee Drown (05/21), Leora Mitchell (05/21), Maggie Westaby (05/21), Mollie Munson (05/24), Claudette Harring (05/25), Janci Treutel (05/26), Michael Gilles (05/27), Sheri Mueller (05/27), Lyla Lauersdorf (05/29), Austin Schmidt (05/29)

Happy Anniversary! **to this Special Couple**

The following couple is celebrating their Wedding Anniversary in May:

May 2021 Anniversaries

- LeRoy & Margaret Johnson (5/27), 71 years



Happy Mother's Day (Sunday, May 9, 2020) to all moms, grandmas and those special women in our lives. There's a beautiful story about a mother and child in the Old Testament. The child wasn't even the mother's child; she was her daughter-in-law. But Ruth still set an example for us to follow, learning to love our mothers the way God wants us to. To learn more about this story read Ruth 1:6-17.



Let us remember... Memorial Day (Monday, May 31, 2020) is the day that is set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all those who served and died for our country and our freedom. May your day be filled with memories and peace. God Bless America.

Volunteer Needed: Media Assistant. We will gradually be eliminating the videos that we have been producing for upload to YouTube. Our in-service worship services will be live streamed to YouTube from the sanctuary each Sunday. We are looking for someone to volunteer as a media assistant. Jackie will train you on filming the live feed. Please let Pastor Niveen or Jackie know if you are interested and can provide this valuable service for ILC.

Immanuel Lutheran Church 2021 Income vs Expenses

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						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December				\$0		
Totals	\$46,616.65	\$65,865.88		(\$19,249)	\$4,584	\$51,201

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Meeting via Zoom

Minutes will be published in the next newsletter.

IMMANUEL News May 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



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