

Immanuel News

October 2022



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.

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

Dear, Immanuel Lutheran Church Family,
Grace and peace to you.

It is with a saddened but grateful heart that I write this letter to inform you that I will be resigning from my position as a pastor effective Sunday, October 23, 2022. I have been exploring other opportunities to practice God's grace and God's word. I found St. Mark Lutheran Church in Neenah, WI, to be a good fit with challenges and opportunities for the next chapter in ministry and life.

During my six years serving as your pastor, I have come to know and love every person at the church. The wonderful people of ILC have become my family, and the church is home to me; therefore, I am extremely sad. I assure you that this was not an easy decision.

I am exceedingly thankful to have had the honor and privilege to serve the church for these last six years. The fact that you have allowed me into your lives and homes is humbling to me and something for which I will always be grateful. I will always cherish you who called me to be your pastor. When I arrived here, almost immediately, I felt that I had found a home among the kind and loving people here at ILC.

The people who make up a church and all of the people at ILC are amazing souls who love God and strive to serve God every day of their lives. It has been an amazing life experience to serve you and serve with you. God has worked in my life during these last six years, and I have grown and will continue to grow as I follow where the Holy Spirit leads me all the days of my life. With gratitude and a cheerful heart, I am

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras, Ph.D.

THERE WILL BE A GATHERING AFTER THE FINAL SERVICE ON 23 OCTOBER TO SEND OFF PASTOR NIVEEN WITH OUR GOOD WISHES!!

(More details to follow). Judy Kort



Greetings,

I hope all of you have had a safe and enjoyable summer, and that you are also able to find joy in the first signs of fall. The nights are beginning to get cooler, and trees are getting their first tinge of color. Soon fall will be here, giving us time to prepare for winter and the challenges it brings. We may tune up the snow blower, gather firewood, keep some warm clothing in our cars, stock up on ice melt, and keep some extra groceries and supplies in our homes. As we prepare ourselves for winter and the challenges it brings, so have we begun to prepare Immanuel Lutheran Church for the challenges we will face in the future. Like many churches, we continue to face challenges stemming from our large and aging facility, coupled with a decrease in membership and participation, and all in the context of a post-pandemic time of high inflation, civil unrest, and increasing divisiveness.

Addressing these challenges and preparing for future challenges continues to be the main focus of the Council. We have been prioritizing and planning preventative maintenance of our facility to avoid costly repairs in the future and making financially sound and frugal decisions. We also continue to work towards renting out unused or underused portions of our facility to provide additional revenue. We have reached out to United Way, and it is our hope that with them we will be able to find non-profit tenants for these spaces. However, if we are unable to find non-profit tenants, we also have a contingency plan in place to allow for the possibility of renting to for-profit tenants.

We are also actively exploring the possibility of partnering with another local ELCA church to form a two-point parish. This would involve sharing a pastor with another church, which would allow Immanuel to keep our independence while also significantly decreasing our costs. Several other area churches have already done so, and our preliminary talks have been encouraging.

As always, we are committed to meeting these challenges, we are committed to the perseverance of Immanuel Lutheran Church, and we are committed to you. But we also need your help. We need to add members to ensure our long-term success

and survival as a congregation. We need members not only for fiscal solvency, but to fulfill our mission and to continue to serve our community. We need you to encourage others to worship with us and to join the Immanuel family.

Fraternally Yours In Christ, Adam Doede, ILC Council President



ILC History Hub

IMMANUEL HISTORY –



THE CHANCEL CROSS

Upon entering the sanctuary of Immanuel, one's eyes are drawn to the cross suspended over the altar in the church chancel. It must have been an impressive sight to congregational members when they first entered their new church building in late 1949. The architect no doubt wanted the cross suspended to emphasize its centrality as a symbol of the Christian faith. The chancel itself is deliberately uncluttered; the cross reigns high above the altar and maintains the focus of the worshippers. From afar its beauty is in its simplicity, but the cross itself has many symbols carved into it. The initials INRI meaning "Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews" amidst rays of sunlight emanating from the center is featured as is the crown of thorns intertwined with the nails. The Trinity is symbolized by the Trefoil at each end of the cross, three lobes of equal size, yet one figure. It is an empty cross to emphasize that Christ died for our sins but rose again. He is our living, Lord.

--- Al Solomonson

Thank You

We are thankful for all our volunteers.

TO MY IMMANUEL FAMILY: Thank you so much for your prayers and cards after my recent medical diagnosis. I appreciate your concerns and thoughtfulness. I have completed my therapy and am now able to do more as time goes by.
Vonnie Solomonson

For all the volunteers who helped with the Church Picnic on September 11, 2022.
Judy Kort for volunteering to play the organ and piano.
Bob Henning and Floyd Hallberg for recording the worship services.
Dan Zinsmeister for running the PowerPoint.
Dan & Holly Westaby for decorating the sanctuary for Fall.



As you well know, Immanuel always includes a gift to pastors when they leave. If you are willing to give a donation toward a gift for Pastor Niveen, please leave a check made out to ILC with the designation of gift for pastor on the check, (or cash) .

You may either leave an envelope or the check in the offering plate or leave with Michelle in the office.

ILC November 2022 Newsletter. The next newsletter will be the November 2022 Edition. The deadline for submissions is October 24, 2022.

Thank you for your regular offerings. Donations support our regular ministry and mission. This makes a difference in the lives of many who are touched by our ministry every day. Your gifts also are an expression of your faith and an offering of thanksgiving to God.



There are several ways to make a gift:

- ✓ Mail a check to 630 Adams St. Wausau, WI 54403.
- ✓ Place your offering in the offering plate before worship service. It is available on a table in the narthex.
- ✓ You can leave your offering in a safe box at the entry door of the church parking lot.
- ✓ Use your bank's online bill pay service to send a contribution - this is usually free, and you don't need to pay for postage.



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.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Stephen, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will do the confirmation class together starting in October. These are the students:

- 1. Jerrin Nickolai**
- 2. Alex and Mollie Munson**
- 3. Vinca Westaby**
- 4. Andrew Kallio**
- 5. Kasen Hulstrom**

If you know anyone else who may be interested, please let our office know.



Our Adult Forum, The Search for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land, is a curriculum designed to be taught in a small group. Each unit will consist of a preliminary reading text, a multimedia presentation, a series of group discussion questions, and a list of further resources. The first two units will provide participants with general background information on Christianity in the Holy Land, the origins of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, and how the occupation has affected Christians in the region. The second two units will focus on the contemporary political, social, and economic realities facing the peoples of Israel and Palestine, including the status of Jerusalem and life under the occupation. The last session will equip participants with the skills they will need to be able to advocate on behalf of Israelis and Palestinians to their representatives in government. Each session's video is approximately 50 minutes and includes discussion questions. **Do not worry, we will not spend our time watching the entire video** 😊

Participants will learn...

1. Who the Christians of the Holy Land are, how they practice Christianity, why they are important to the global Church, and what challenges Christianity faces in the region today.
2. Why Israelis and Palestinians both claim historic ties to the Land, why these claims are in conflict, and when that conflict began.
3. How Palestinians and Israelis view the conflict differently, why these different perspectives on history make achieving peace difficult, and how learning to view the conflict from the perspective of the other is a necessary part of reconciliation.
4. Why Jerusalem is sacred for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and why it is an important national symbol for both Israelis and Palestinians.
5. How the continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories has harmed both Israeli and Palestinian societies and the realities of contemporary human rights concerns in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).
6. How to be an effective advocate for a just peace in Israel and Palestine.

Rev. Sarras will inform you about the rest of the dates.



By the time you are reading this, we will be well on our way. Summer will be over. Fall will have begun. And our thoughts will be on our way toward that which is coming in the not-too-distant future – our annual Stewardship emphasis. You were perhaps thinking of something else?

This emphasis is to remind us that to exist as a congregation, to exist as a Synod, as a denomination of Christ's Church here on earth, it takes a lot of stewardship of time, talents and treasure put forth from a whole lot of folks to make that happen. We simply cannot exist unless every one of us gives of our three T's.

So, once again, we are asking that every member of Immanuel look deeply within ourselves and think about what we can give of our personal three T's in order to keep our congregation being the Church in this place.

Stewardship is not limited to a few. Every member matters in terms of the giving of our personal three T's. Every amount of every one's giving enables us to be the Church. If you can give a little more in the coming year, that would be great. And a great big THANK YOU for what you have been giving this year.

Your Stewardship Committee.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, October 8, 2022 Marty Haugen will be leading *A Worship and Arts Festival* at Trinity Lutheran Church from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Registration is \$15 per person.

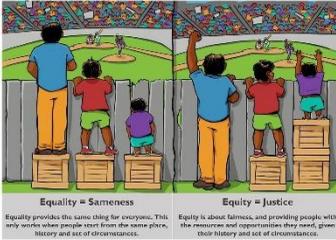
He is also offering a free concert at 7 p.m. at Holy Spirit Parish in Stevens Point.

Sunday, October 9, 2022, Adult Forum, The Search for Peace & Justice in the Holy Land in Emmaus Room at 10:40 am.

Tuesday, October 11, 2022, *Kathy Groethe Memorial Service* at 11:00 am at ILC. Visitation at 10:00 and lunch following the service. Thelma Bursik, Charlotte Traeger, and Faye Schwarm would like to attend the service and have asked for a volunteer to give them a ride. They live in Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd. Wausau, WI 54403.

October 17-19, 2022, Pastor Sarras will attend the Annual Synod Theological Conference.

The Men's Discussion Group will resume Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. in the Koinonia Room. New Participants are most welcome. Coffee and rolls are available.



Racial Equity Training Offered in October
October 14th - Lutheran Church of the Wilderness –
 Bowler, WI
 October 15th - St. John - Ashwaubenon
 Cost \$50 per person

Racism has caused suffering for many years, yet many people don't know very much about why or how this happened. A six-hour training workshops for lay people (but anyone may attend) entitled "Learning and Telling the Story: "Deconstructing Racism" is being offered by The Racial Equity Team of our synod. Dr. Joyce Caldwell and Rev. Marilyn Miller of Leading for Racial Equity of Milwaukee will facilitate the workshop.

Caldwell and Miller provided anti-racism training for lay and rostered people several years ago in virtual format due to COVID 19. Their workshops have been very well received here and throughout the region, and Caldwell and Miller are recognized as national leaders in this work.

Participants may choose to attend either session: Friday, October 14 at Lutheran Church of the Wilderness or Saturday, October 15 at St. John Lutheran in Ashwaubenon. Ideally, participants will attend with one or two others from their congregation, ministry, or organization including a council or board member. Youth aged 13 and older are welcome as part of the team. Time will be included for these groups to discuss how to take this information back to their congregations, ministries, or organizations. Registration is now open: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/5841886>

Saturday, October 22, 2022, Zion Lutheran Church is pleased to present the next event in their Organ Concert Series:

A Hymn Festival on Romans: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith.

Jeffrey Blerch, Professor at Concordia University Nebraska (Seward) will be the guest organist and Stephen P. Starke, Emeritus Pastor from Bay City, Michigan, will provide commentary on the hymns. A combined choir of singers from Zion's Kantori and Trinity's (Wausau) Sanctuary Choir will lead the singing. The concert will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 709 North Sixth Street, Wausau on Saturday

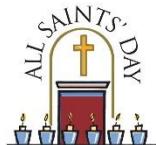
October 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. A reception will follow the concert. A free will donation will be received. For more information you may call 715-848-7286 or go to Zion's website: zionlutheranwausau.com

There will be a gathering after the final service on October 23rd to send off Pastor Niveen. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

Sunday, October 30, 2021. Reformation Sunday. Please wear Red.



Sunday, October 23, 2022, Community Dinner. Please contact Kathy Knox if you are able to help.



Sunday, November 6, 2022. All Saints Sunday. Please bring a photo or memento of your dearly departed loved ones to be displayed on the table in the sanctuary.

Happy Birthday!

October 2022 Birthdays. The following individuals are celebrating their birthday! Happy Birthday to all of you! Margaret Johnson (10/04), Missy Reilly (10/04), Lisa Bergeth (10/05), Pat Scobel (10/06), Jordan Nickolai (10/08) Joanne Diestelhorst (10/09), Kristin Sibell (10/09), Jeanette Petterson (10/11), Wendy Christopherson (10/13), Sydney Duxbury (10/13), Judy Kort (10/14), Dwala Smail, (10/23), Bob Doede (10/30), Sue Doede (10/31), Layne Heffner (10/31/)



October Anniversaries!

- Gary and Patti Busche (10/01), 41 years
- Mike and Margy Mayer (10/28), 50 years



☞ 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. 📞

Caring Corner <i>Psalm 71:9 "Do not cast me off in the time of old"</i>		
Riverview Towers, 500 Grand Ave., Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Jeff Groethe	Bell Tower Residence, 1500 O'Day St, Merrill, WI 54452 (715) 359-0197 ▶ Carol Hettinga, #307	Mountain Terrace Senior Living Grace Berg 3312 Terrace Court, Apt 7 Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 297-2846
	Our House Senior Living, 210 West Campus Drive, Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ Joan Bergeth, #6	▶ Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 298-1942
Our House Memory Care 220 Campus Drive, Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Tom McDonell, #11	Primrose Memory Care of Wausau, 7704 Franciscan Way, Weston, WI 54476 ▶ Judy Blanchfield, #22	▶ Jeanette Petterson 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474 (715) 359-0449
Stone Crest Residence, 805 Parcher St, Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Joanne Cerny, #7	Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd, Wausau, WI 54403: ▶ Thelma Bursik, Apt #101 (715)297-1785	▶ Pat Stricker 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1304
Heritage House of Portage, 2685 Airport Road, Portage, WI 53901 ▶ Esther Osterby, #43	▶ Charlotte Traeger, Apt #215 (715) 298-9421	▶ Carolyn Viergutz Fairway Knoll N112 W17500 Mequon Rd Germantown, WI 53022



Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – August 15, 2022

Members present: President Adam Doede, Pastor Niveen, Financial Secretary Jane Reilly-Smith, Council Secretary Patti Busche, Properties Bob Henning, Social Concerns Kathy Knox, Stewardship Rick Lohr, Education Judy Nickolai and Worship Judy Kort.

Members absent: Matt Munson.

Pastor led devotions based on the Apostles Creed. God created us and provides necessities. He protects and shields us out of Fatherly goodness and mercy. We face challenges and forget God is there to provide. He also provides people to comfort us and be there in times of trouble. God is there for us. Don't put our trust in money and property. Put our trust in the heavenly Lord. The meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m. by Adam.

Pastor's Report:

1. I will be attending the 2022 Service and Justice conference "Becoming". The meeting will take place on Aug. 21-28. I have arranged with Rev. Jenn Hoffman to cover for me.
2. Tuesday, September 20, I will attend Anti-Bias Training for Rostered Ministers in Redeemer Lutheran Church, Stevens Point. This event is mandatory.
3. I will start a new confirmation class. We have between five to six students. I am in conversation with other churches to see whether we can partner with them in leading the confirmation class.
4. Our new administrative assistant, Michelle Cowan, is doing great so far. Emma Munson trained her very well. I am grateful for her time among us.
5. The back door is not functioning. We need to fix it as soon as possible.
6. We need to develop a policy regarding guest pastors conducting services at ILC. ELCA pastors have a protocol that we should commit ourselves to. See New Business.
7. Raising scholarship for Dar al Kalima (DAK) Lutheran University in Bethlehem, Palestine. I am working with the Dean of our conference to invite the churches to help in raising \$5000 to cover the tuition for one student. The university has five colleges, providing a diversity of critical areas of study to whet the appetite of many interests. Council discussion recommended tabling donations for Bright Stars and to work on creating a fund raiser within the congregation.
8. The Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) offers Curriculum Resources to elevate, educate, and advocate for peace, equality, security, and human rights in the Middle East. I want to use their curriculum for our adult

forum starting this September. The title of their curriculum is The Search for Peace and Justice The curriculum is designed to be taught in a small-group environment over five weeks. Each unit will consist of a preliminary reading text, a multimedia presentation, and a series of group discussion questions. CMEP asks us to consider \$175, but if this is not possible, we can donate as we can. I remember that we donated \$250 to CMEP last year or a year before. Motion made by Bob and 2 nd by Rick to make a donation of \$175 to come out of Adult Studies budget. Motion approved.

Secretary's report: Reviewed minutes from the 6/27/22 meeting. Motion made to approve by Rick, 2 nd by Bob. Motion approved.

Treasurer report: Motion made to hold for audit made by Rick and 2 nd by Bob. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary report: No report

Vice President: position vacant

President's report: Adam thanked all that helped with the special events that recently occurred. Reminder of upcoming Picnic and Semi-Annual meeting.

Education: – Sunday School will start on 9/11. They will be using the room in the north hallway and the Sunday School office.

Properties: Knox box has been hung. Work was done on the door lock which was also cleaned on 8/14.

Our certification on the elevator has expired and we will go through the needed process to get re-certified. It passed inspection but does need an oil change. Recommendation to use the same person this year as we did last year for snow removal.

Stewardship: Committee met and are working on commitment Sunday. Letters, a video and cards will be made.

Social Concerns: Next meal will be 8/28.

Worship: In addition to the schedule of participants, Judy requested that a list of names and phone numbers of all volunteers be made up for ease of finding a substitute as needed. Patti asked if unfamiliar hymns can be sung to more familiar music. This should encourage more singing.

Unfinished Business:

1. Semi-annual meeting will be 9/18. Committee reports should be sent to church office by 9/1. Meeting will be held in the sanctuary. Will have election of Vice-President.
2. September 11 – church picnic in fellowship hall. Church service will be held at 9:00. God’s work our hands will put together kits between church service and picnic. Pastor encouraged everyone to invite those that haven’t attended church in a while.
3. Audit – Adam will follow up to find out if date has been set by committee.
4. ILC Rental – rental of 1st floor and 2nd floor rooms is a viable option. Basement not rentable on its own but some rooms could be rented for storage. Elevator access is selling point. Challenges are no air conditioning and there is not a good way to segregate rental from non-rental areas. Wausau Fire Department would need to be involved if security gates were to be installed. Next step is to contact a property management company to get an idea of costs for them to handle leases. We should also reach out to group with contacts in a lot of non-profit organizations.
5. Naomi support – motion made by Bob to finished pledged amount for this year but not to continue support. 2nd by Patti. Motion approved.
6. New Administrative Assistant – Michelle is on board. Stop in to meet her.

New Business:

Guest Pastor policy has been drafted.

Policy on guest Pastors performing ceremonies at Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA

In certain circumstances, a member or family belonging to ILC may request a guest Pastor to perform various ceremonies, rituals, or rites at ILC. These may include, but are not limited to, funerals, weddings, baptisms, etc. In these situations, the guest Pastor is to take a supportive or assisting role while ILC’s Pastor is to maintain the primary role. In the case of extenuating circumstances, ILC’s Council has final discretion in the application of this policy.

Motion made by Rick to approve the proposed wording. 2nd by Bob. Motion approved.

The next meeting set for 9/18 at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Patti Busche, Secretary

October Worship Assistants				
Date	Pianist\Organist	Reader	Usher	Pastor
Sunday,10/02/22	Karen Zuidema	Al Solomonson	Bruce Knox	Rev. Niveen Sarras
Sunday,10/09/22	Judy Kort	Jane Reilly-Smith	Bob Doede	Rev. Niveen Sarras
Sunday,10/16/22	Judy Kort	Sue Schwede	Mike Schwede	Rev. Niveen Sarras
Sunday,10/23/22	Karen Zuidema	Holly Westaby	Dan Westaby	Rev. Niveen Sarras
Sunday,10/30/22	Judy Kort	Mary McDonell	Dan Westaby	Sally Scinto-Reinertson
Altar Guild will be Kathy Knox				
November Worship Assistants				
Date	Pianist\Organist	Reader	Usher	Pastor
Sunday, 11/06/22	Judy Kort	Al Solomonson	Bruce Knox	Rev. Asher O'Callaghan Synod
Sunday,11/13/22	Karen Zuidema		Bob Doede	Sally Scinto-Reinertson
Sunday,11/20/22	Judy Kort	Sue Schwede	Mike Schwede	Rev. Phil Bogen
Sunday,11/27/22 First Advent	Karen Zuidema	Holly Westaby	Dan Westaby	Kathy Robinson St. Stephen Church
Altar Guild will be Joannie Diestelhorst				

If you cannot make it, please find somebody else to replace you and notify the church office. Thank you for your service. **If you would like to read for November, please email info.immanuel.wausau@gmail.com**

IMMANUEL News September 2022

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:

Monday Afternoon on YouTube
(check your email for link)

TV Worship Services:

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