

Immanuel News

Summer 2022

June, July, August



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.

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church family,

Greetings to you from Bethlehem, Palestine. I am writing you from Bethlehem, where Jesus was born! I am very blessed to be among my family and relatives. I am enjoying every single minute with my nieces. Bethlehem 20 years ago is different than now, there are lots of new buildings and development. The only thing that is the same is the Israeli military occupation that continues to impact every aspect of daily life for Palestinians: restricting movement, imposing discriminatory control, and threatening homes and livelihoods.

The major disturbing event I experienced was the killing of Shreen Abu Akleh, a longtime TV correspondent for Al Jazeera Arabic, by Israeli forces. While Abu Akleh was covering Israeli army raids in the city of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank, Israeli forces shot her dead. Abu Akleh was wearing a press vest and was standing with other journalists when she was killed.

At her funeral, her coffin almost fell as police, some using batons, waded into a crowd of Palestinians gathered around it. I was deeply disturbed by the police's violent act. Her death and funeral emerged with heavy tears and loud, pain-filled cries. My family and I were in tears while watching Abu Akleh's funeral.

Despite the deep pain, I enjoyed being with my family and visiting my relatives and church. In every house I visited, the main topic of conversation was serving the church and keeping faith in Christ. Palestinian Christians were shocked and thrilled to see for the first time a Palestinian female pastor. Some were uncomfortable, but others were happy and excited to shake my hand.

We, Palestinian Christians, often refer to ourselves as living stones, quoting Peter 2:6, "They are some of the living stones who make up the church, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ." Palestinian Christians are often called the 'living stones' of Christianity as we can trace our history to Pentecost, 2,000 years ago. We still witness and live our faith despite all adversities.

Here in the USA, we also keep the faith. Unlike Palestinian Christians, we live in free land that honors its citizens' rights and dignity. We live in a country where we feel safe to travel and have a comfortable life. Palestinian Christians do not have these privileges. Therefore, I encourage you to continue to pray for an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict over the land and for "justice to roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24).

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras



ILC September 2022 Newsletter. The next newsletter will be the September 2022 Edition. The deadline for submissions is August 22, 2022.

The Synod Consultation Committee. During the Synod Assembly on May 13-14, 2022, Rev. Sarras was elected by the voting members to serve a six year term on the Synod Consultation Committee. This committee does not meet on a regular basis, but rather is called upon when and if there is an issue. Rev. Sarras would be asked to serve in an advisory role to the office of the bishop and assist the bishop to investigate situations that are potential matters of formal ecclesiastical discipline of a rostered person or a congregation.



ILC History Hub

IMMANUEL HISTORY –



Article from Al

THE BIBLE CAMP

Immanuel Lutheran was one of a few congregations in central Wisconsin that joined together to build a Lutheran Bible camp at Mission Lake near Bevent in the 1940s. The location was called Crooked Lake then and was the site of a former dance hall. Many volunteers did the physical labor needed to bring the camp to reality. The camp, later called Waypost, has been an important part of Immanuel's ministry over the years as it maintained close ties with the program there. Until recent years it was a tradition to have the summer congregational picnic with a brief worship service at the camp. Many families from the congregation helped initiate a family camping experience there as well, and for some it became a summer tradition. It was not uncommon for college students from Immanuel to work as counsellors and assistants at the camp. Vonnie and Bob Henning spent several summers on the staff there; Vonnie was the head cook and Bob was the camp handyman. Immanuel members usually participated in spring and fall work days when the camp was prepared for a seasonal change. The camp provided many memorable experiences for our youth who participated in the required week of confirmation camp there.

--Al Solomonson



Thank You

Maggie Westaby for working as the temporary administrative assistant.

Bob Henning, Sally Scinto-Reinertson, Al Solomonson and Rick Lohr for leading the worship services while Rev. Sarras was visiting her family in Palestine.

Judy Kort and Joyce Lohr for representing ILC at the synod assembly.

♥ **Thank you, Immanuel Lutheran Church!** ♥

I cannot believe that four years of Seminary have gone by! I want to thank each of you for all of your support. I could not have gotten through this without each one of you, because it is through community that we are able to support each other, experience life, and experience God among us. Thank you for your generous financial support over the last four years. It has been truly a blessing to be a recipient of the Ort & Segrid Enstad Scholarship, as well as other financial support through Immanuel. Thank you also for your continued prayers, they have meant a lot to me, and I have leaned into them countless times. Thank you for letting me be your Vicar, for fellowship, conversation, and for the many opportunities to learn alongside you. Though the future remains uncertain, I am hopeful that soon I will be able to share good news. Immanuel will always hold a special place in my heart and spirit.

All my love and gratitude,

Maggie Westaby

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.

Canaan Olive Oil is Available in the Church Office!



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!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Sunday, June 5, 2022, at 9:00 am service, Day of Pentecost, Temple Talk in lieu of sermon. Pastor Jennifer Hoffman will talk about lay school. Pastor Hoffman will be available to answer any questions during coffee hour.

Sunday, June 5, 2022, Maggie's Graduation, Central Lutheran Church 333 S 12th St. Minneapolis at 3:00 pm. All are invited. As of now masks are required.



Sunday, June 19, 2022, Father's Day. Coffee hour will be held in the honor of ILC's men. We need women to take care of coffee hour. Please, email Rev. Sarras if you are interested.



Sunday, June 19, 2022, National Day. Juneteenth commemorates the freedom of African Americans from slavery in the U.S. As it was on June 19, 1865, that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Texas and informed slaves that slavery had been abolished. Juneteenth, is made up of the words ‘June’ and ‘nineteenth.’ It is a day of celebration and education. Therefore, ILC will incorporate this event in our worship service.

Monday, June 20, 2022, the church office will be closed in honor of Juneteenth.

Sunday, June 26, 2022, Community Dinner. Please contact Kathy Knox if you are able to help.

Monday, July 04, 2022, Independence Day. The church office will be closed.

Saturday, July 16, 2022, Rev. Sarras will be serving on our synod’s anti-racism committee. This committee will meet at Imago Dei Village - Crossways Camping Ministries.

Sunday, July 31—Friday, August 5, 2022, Multicultural Youth Leadership Academy (MYLA) MYLA offers youth in high school (ages 13-16) a safe space to develop competencies for a multicultural world. Campers from multiple cultural backgrounds form a community, experience the richness of each cultures’ heritage, and address issues of oppression. Camp dates for 2022 are July 31 – August 5 in New Era, MI. Please, inform Rev. Sarras if your children are interested in this event.

Friday, August 5—Saturday, August 6, 2022, Rev. Sarras will attend the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage general assembly at Mother of The Savior Church, in Dearborn, MI. The Bishop of the ELCJHL, The Very Reverend Ibrahim Azar will be the preacher at the opening worship service and the keynote speaker.

Monday, August 8—Friday, August 12, 2022, the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held in Columbus, Ohio, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. We gather under the theme, *Embody the Word*.

Sunday, August 21—Sunday August 28, 2022. Rev. Sarras will attend Service and Justice conference “Becoming.” The ELCA will gather Service and Justice staff, all ELCA international personnel and families, and ELCA networks that intersect with the work of Service and Justice. The meeting will be held in Chicago, IL.

Sunday, August 28, 2022, Community Dinner. Please contact Kathy Knox if you are able to help.



Sunday, September 11, 2022. “God’s work. Our hands.”

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We will inform you of the type of the activities that ILC will participate in.



Friday, Sep 23, 7pm—Saturday, Sep 24, 2022. Rev, Sarras will attend crossways board retreat.

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



Happy Birthday!

June 2022 Birthdays!

The following individuals are celebrating their birthday in June.

Happy Birthday to all of you!

Joan Bonstead (6/3), Jacob Rajek (6/3), Mary Rolfson (6/3), Joy Karnitz (6/5), Kristin Kallio (6/10), Doug Christopherson (6/11), David Reinhardt (6/14), Neil Munson (6/15), Mike Mayer (6/23), Donna Neiter (6/24), JoAnne Cerny (6/29), Hannah Weir (6/29)



July 2022 Birthdays!

The following individuals are celebrating their birthday in July.

Happy Birthday to all of you!

Grace Berg (7/7), Deb Dellenbach (7/8), Kyle Gilles (7/13), Kathy Groethe (7/16), Keenan Cadeau (7/20), Kira Spoehr (7/21), Ben Harring (7/24), Paul Reinertson (7/26)



August 2022 Birthdays!

The following individuals are celebrating their birthday in August.

Happy Birthday to all of you!

Dan Westaby (8/2), Joseph Schwede (8/3), Stephen Feck (8/5), Judith Blanchfield (8/8), Tom McDonell (8/8), Don Smail (8/12), Pat Stricker (8/12), Mary Munson (8/15), George Klinker (8/16), Pat Stolen (8/16), Janet Rohde (8/17), Pattie Bricko (8/19), Meredith Westaby (8/19), Baylen Hulstrom (8/20), Brett Riehle (8/21), Erin Doede (8/23), Kasen Hulstrom (8/23), Erin Lauersdorf (8/23), Andrea Schafer (8/23), Mitch Scobell (8/24), Janice Reinhardt (8/25), Maria O'Keefe (8/26), Bob Henning (8/27), Mary Anne Klinker (8/30), Al Solomonson (8/31)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June Anniversaries!

- Harlan & Elaine Grinde (6/9), 60 years.
- Doug & Nancy Helling (6/8), 53 years.
- Roger & Donna Neiter (6/13), 47 years.
- Art & Deb Dellenbach (6/6), 41 years.
- Justin & Ashley Nickolai (6/21), 14 years.

July Anniversaries!

- James & Marilyn DeRubis (7/23), 56 years.
- Michael & Sue Schwede (7/19), 47 years.
- Brandon & Erin Lauersdorf (7/19), 8 years.

August Anniversaries!

- George & Mary Anne Klinker (8/18), 66 years.
- Dave & Janice Reinhardt (8/25), 65 years.
- Clarence & Sally Johnson (8/27), 62 years.
- Al & Vonnie Solomonson (8/20), 61 years.
- Rick & Joyce Lohr (8/2), 58 years.
- Don & Dwala Smail (8/8), 58 years.
- Ben & Claudette Harring (8/9), 58 years.
- Don & Bonnie Dern (8/12), 55 years.
- Jim & Debbie Palmer (8/12), 50 years.
- Vern & Joanne Diestelhorst (8/4), 49 years.
- Dan & Holly Westaby (8/28), 40 years.



WCC Receives Award from The Wisconsin Public Health Association

We are excited to share that the Wisconsin Council of Churches is the recipient of the 2022 *Excellence in Advancing Policy Award* from the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA). The criteria for the award include contributions of visible support to local/state/national health policy; leadership in advocating for public health policy; and demonstrating exceptional outreach, community engagement and /or legislative engagement.



ALAMEH

رابطة العرب والشرق اوسطيون في الكنيسة الانجيلية اللوثرية في امريكا

Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage

The Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was assassinated while reporting on Israeli attacks in the West Bank on Thursday May 12, 2022. She was wearing protective head gear and a bullet proof vest which was clearly marked PRESS when she was gunned down.

Her peaceful funeral procession was attacked by Israeli police hitting pallbearers with batons, attacking mourners with smoke grenades and shooting rubber bullets.

The Association of Lutheran of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage are calling on our church to be informed of the reality regarding war crimes against Palestinians.

We cannot tolerate or stay silent regarding the crimes of the Israeli occupation. We are requesting that our church and US government hold the Israeli

government accountable for this and other unjust violence committed against the Palestinian people.

We are also asking that an independent international (not Israeli) investigation be implemented right away.

ALAMEH President
Khader El-Yateem



A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Muslim Community.

This declaration was recently adopted by the ELCA Church Council as a statement on Lutheran-Muslim relations. Through this declaration, The ELCA recommit ourselves to the heart of both our theological traditions: love of God and love of neighbor. Christ commanded us to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 19:19).

Rev. Sarras emailed you the document and you can find it on the ELCA Website.



Middle Eastern Christians in an age of empire - presentation by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb June 3

You are invited to hear from world-renowned author Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. He served as pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine and is now the president of the Lutheran Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. Join us to hear Rev. Raheb speak about his newest book, *The Politics of Persecution*, which addresses the situation of Christians in the Middle East. He will present a less-familiar narrative about Christians in the Middle East, challenging us to reconsider how we think about our siblings in faith. The talk, followed by a book signing, is **June 3 at 7:00pm at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 East Gorham Street, Madison.** Please register using this link or in person at the door.



Caring Corner

Psalm 71:9 "Do not cast me off in the time of old"

Facility

Riverview Towers, 500
Grand Ave., Wausau, WI
54403

▶ **Jeff Groethe**

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

▶ **Grace Berg**
Mountain Terrace Senior
Living



3312 Terrace Court, Apt 7
Wausau, WI 54401
(715) 297-2846

▶ **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**
Fairway Knoll
N112 W17500 Mequon
Rd
Germantown, WI 53022

 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. 

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – April 11, 2022

Members present: President Adam Doede, Pastor Niveen, Treasurer Matt Munson, Secretary Patti Busche, Social Concerns Kathy Knox and Stewardship Rick Lohr.

Members absent: Jane Reilly Smith, Bob Henning, Judy Kort and Judy Nickolai.

Devotions using the small catechism which is used in confirmation class but then not emphasized after that. Pastor encourages us to use this for devotions going forward. Reviewed commandments 1 through 3. First commandments tells us to fear, love and trust above all. Second comments tells us to fear and love and not to not curse, swear or lie using God's name. His name should be used in praise and to give thanks. The Third commandment says to Fear & love and not despise God's work. Keep it holly and gladly learn it. The common thought in all 3 is to fear and love.

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m.by Adam.

Secretary's report: Reviewed minutes from the 3/21/22 meeting. Motion made to approve by Rick; 2nd by Matt. Minutes approved.

Treasurer report. Motion to approve and hold for audit made by Rick & 2nd by Patti. Treasurer's report approved.

Financial Secretary report. No report.

Vice President: position vacant

President's report: no report

Pastor's Report:

- Seder meal will be held on Maundy Thursday. Sally Scinto-Reinertson will cook the meat.
- Maggie will work with Jackie until Jackie leaves. Will need to look for replacement soon.
- Services will be held on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter vigil and Easter Sunday.
- Church office will be closed April 18.
- The Synod is providing the sermon on April 24. Bob Henning will lead the service as Pastor Niveen will be gone.
- Pastor will be in Chicago 5/6 and 5/7 to join a task force on the relationship between church and state.

- May 13 and 14 is the Synod assembly. Money and bedding for the Bunk Beds will be taken to the assembly.
- Jackie's last day is 4/21. We should hold coffee hour in her honor. Jackie will let us know when she is available.

Education – No change to Sunday School plans. Still painting fish for the Fish Sandwich.

Properties: Need to have the back door fixed. Adam will let Bob know to have this handled.

Stewardship: no report

Social concerns: Community dinner will be 4/24 and no concerns on getting volunteers. Plan to deliver any extra food to Mission Church. A request will be made to Thrivent for \$250 to fund the meals. There are also 2 baskets of Noisy Offering that needs to be cashed in for Community dinners. Kathy Knox will handle it.

Worship: Services mentioned in Pastor's report.

Unfinished Business:

- LLC Formation – trying to schedule walk through of the building.
- Replacement of Vice President to be done by council vote until the next election.
- Discussed removing term limits from Council positions mentioned in section c10.05 of by-laws. Rick made motion to update/remove the term limits; second by Matt. Motion approved. Patti will get notices out to update.
- Building maintenance committee – no update.
- Audit Committee must be members on the congregation. Need 3 volunteers. A notice will be put in the newsletter and bring up at the semi-annual meeting.
- No date set yet for the semi-annual meeting.

New Business: Administrative Assistant position – Sally Scinto-Reinertson has volunteered to do the interviews. Council approved. Discussed using Westphal Staffing, Indeed and find other places to post the position on.

Motion to adjourn made by Patti; 2nd by Rick. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Busche
Secretary

Note: we didn't discuss date of next meeting. We usually meet on the 3rd Monday of the month so the next meeting would be May 16.

Income Expenses Report

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Deposit
January	\$15,144	\$14,458		\$686.00	\$1,185	\$16,329.00
February	\$17,191	\$12,345		\$4,845.89	\$905	\$18,095.99
March	\$17,914.56	\$15,767.55		\$2,147.01	\$1,060.64	\$18,975.20
April	\$12,973	\$13,544		(\$570.57)	\$1,022.35	\$13,995.80
May				\$0.00		\$0.00
June				\$0.00		\$0.00
July				\$0.00		\$0.00
August				\$0.00		\$0.00
September				\$0.00		\$0.00
October				\$0.00		\$0.00
November				\$0.00		\$0.00
December				\$0.00		\$0.00

Totals	<u>\$63,223.01</u>	<u>\$56,114.68</u>	<u>\$7,108.33</u>	<u>\$4,173</u>	<u>\$67,395.99</u>
			<u>\$7,108</u>		

June Worship Assistants

DATE	PIANIST / ORGANIST	READER	USHER / GREETERS	VIDEO TAPER
Sunday, 6/5/22	Judy Kort	Sally Scinto-Reinertson	Bruce Knox	Volunteer
Sunday, 6/12/22	Karen Zuidema	Sally Scinto-Reinertson	Bob Doede	Volunteer
Sunday, 6/19/22	Judy Kort	Sue Schwede	Mike Schwede	Volunteer
Sunday, 6/26/22	Karen Zuidema	Mary McDonell	Dan Westaby	Volunteer

Altar Guild will be Kathy Knox

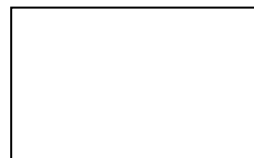
If you would like to read for July, or August please email

info.immanuel.wausau@gmail.com



IMMANUEL News Summer 2022

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.

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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