

Immanuel News

December 2024



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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER 2024

Dear Fellow Disciples of Christ;

This will be my 82nd Christmas since I was born and will still be the most wonderful time of the year. It is so full of mysteries and wonder. It begins our 1-year study of the life of one man who lived with us for 33 years and gave his all to save us forever. The mystery of Christ's birth, I feel, will always be with us to the end of time. It is part of our faith walk to remind us of God's giving love for us and the whole world.

It is indeed the season for giving and receiving, family and friends, and God's blessings for all. I learned my lesson about giving and receiving early in my life from my mother. I don't remember the year, but it has helped me though many Christmases over the years since. We had a large family, 7 brothers and 4 sisters, so my mother thought it was better to exchange gifts with only one member of

the family. After Thanksgiving dinner my mother placed all the names of the kids in a bowl and had each of us draw one name from the bowl. Drawing was from oldest to youngest and the only one who knew who had who was my mother and the picker, of course. That year it was my oldest brother that had my name. He got me a beginning fishing kit which I didn't understand because I didn't fish. I went crying to my mom complaining and then came the lesson. "Bobbie," she said, "it's not the gift that is important but the giver of the gift, because of the love for you that was in their heart when they gave it." After all the tears dried up I when and thanked my brother for his nice gift. We did get to do some fishing together that summer.

The secular world for years has been working hard to make us forget the Gift and the Giver of the Christmas message. For me I know I will never forget as I continue to walk in faith and not by sight. Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas remembering both the Gift and the Giver and looking forward to all the blessings to come forth in the new year.

*Yours in Christ,
Bob Henning, President*

ILC History Hub IMMANUEL HISTORY



IMMANUEL ANNIVERSARY

On December 18, 1949, 75 years ago, the new Immanuel church, located at Seventh and Adams, was dedicated by the president (the bishop title was not used) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, J.A. Aasgard. The first service in the new sanctuary was held the Sunday before. The congregation had been

worshipping in the basement area (now Fellowship Hall) since September. The cost to the congregation was \$175,000. It was considered the most important event in Immanuel's history. The old church on First and Franklin was sold, torn down and the new owners built a building for an auto parts store. Today it is part of the site for the Eye Clinic of Wisconsin.

A. Solomonson

Immanuel: Open for Business...(God's Business)



Thank you to all of our faithful stewards for handing in their Estimate of Giving Card and charitable volunteer service survey. For those who haven't handed theirs in yet, there is still time. Please return the card to the church in person, by mail, or text or email a photo of the card to 715-846-3536 - lohrfore@gmail.com.

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.
 - ✓ You can leave your offering in the 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.
-

Food Pantry Donations

The Neighbors' Place welcomes donations for their food pantry. They are

especially in need of toilet paper, shampoo, lotion, laundry soap, dish soap, juice, beef stew, mayo, cookies, canned fruit, and sugar. If you would like to donate non-perishable foods or basic supplies, you may place them on the black cart next to the pew near the Gathering Room and they will be delivered to the Neighbors' Place.



The ELCA Good Gifts tree is set up in the Gathering Room. ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. How does it work? Simply choose your gift from the tree located in the Gathering Room. Browse and choose the gifts that mean the most to you or choose gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Make your check payable to ELCA Good Gifts, write your gift(s) on the memo line of your check, and put in the offering plate.

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 9am. Pilgrim Day of Prayer. 9:00am-6:30pm. The church will be open for prayer in the church sanctuary, where there will be soft lighting and contemplative music. Pilgrim Lutheran Church is located at 709 Weston Avenue, Wausau, WI 54403. Immanuel Lutheran Church members are invited to attend.

Christmas Carol Sing-along will be held **Saturday, December 7, 2024, 2pm** in the Sanctuary at Pilgrim Lutheran Church at 709 Weston Avenue, Wausau, WI 54403. Light refreshments will follow.

December 8, 2024, 9am: Christmas Cantata, Love at St Stephen Lutheran Church, 512 McClellan St., Wausau, WI 54403. Our own Joanne Diestelhorst will be participating.

The Appleton Conference is hosting a special viewing of Bonhoeffer (PG-13, 2hrs, 12m). **Sunday, December 8, 2024.** Doors Open at 12:30pm | Movie at 1pm. Hollywood Marcus Theater | 513 N Westhill Blvd, Appleton, WI 54914.

\$10 includes popcorn and drink.

Registration: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/9332611>

Wausau Lyric Choir and Wausau Pro Musica proudly presents **Tidings of Comfort and Joy**. Our own **Karen Zuidema** is the Director/Wausau Pro Musica. This event will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 406 Grand Street, Wausau, WI on **Friday December 13, 2024, at 7:30pm and Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 3:00pm**. In lieu of tickets, a free will donation would be greatly appreciated.

December 15, 2024, 9am: Christmas Cantata, Love at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 709 Weston Ave, Wausau, WI 54403. Our own Joanne Diestelhorst will be participating.

Blue Christmas Service, Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome. Here is the address: St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5304 N 44th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401.



The next **Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting** is to be determined.

Sunday, December 22, 2024: Christmas Carol Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Join us at Immanuel Lutheran Church on December 24, 2024, at 4:00 PM for a special Christmas Eve Service! Celebrate the birth of our Savior with a beautiful worship experience featuring the Hand Bell Choir Ensemble. There will be cookies and coffee afterwards. All are welcome – bring family and friends to share in the joy and peace of this holy night.

We have been invited to the following Christmas Services:

- **December 25, 2024**, Combined Christmas Day Service (10am) at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 930 Edgewood Rd, Wausau, WI 54403
- **December 25, 2024**, Christmas Day Service (9am) at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 709 Weston Ave, Wausau, WI 54403

Immanuel Lutheran Church was mentioned at the Wausau School District Board Meeting that started at 5pm on November 11, 2024. On their agenda was thanking various groups in our community for different types of donations. Thank you Immanuel Lutheran Church members who donated to the Coats for Kids Campaign. You can view the meeting online here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/dND0RzivI3g?si=RqY6yERhZpeoKPHc&t=717>

Immanuel Lutheran Church will be adopting a family or two for Christmas. Signup sheets and tags will be in the gathering room. Please sign up with a tag from a table. The wishes are on the tag. Please bring in an **unwrapped** gift or monetary donation. If you have any questions, please ask Shauna or Holly. Please return the gifts by no later than **Sunday, December 8, 2024**.

Now in its 25th year, the toy drive, “Kids Kount” has begun. Gifts are donated to children who have a parent in the Marathon County Jail over the Christmas season. In addition to toy donations, volunteers are needed to help with toy distribution, wrapping presents, and more. If interested, please contact Sharon of Greater Wausau Christian Services at (715) 842-5635.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting and Budget Meeting will be held on January 26, 2025 from 9:15am-10:15am.

Thank You! **Thank you** to everyone who stayed after Church on Sunday, November 24, 2024, and helped with setting up for the Advent season. Your work was wonderful, and the Church looks so beautiful!

The Men’s Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

Strong Bones Senior Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Nursery at 10:30 am. The class is open to anyone wishing to improve balance and maintain strength to prevent falls. New faces are happily welcome.



The following individuals are celebrating their birthday! Lisa Scobell (12/04), Bruce Knox (12/07), John Burk Sr (12/11), Glenn Rusch (12/13), Holly Westaby (12/15), Rebecca Case (12/18), Doug Helling (12/19), Carol Hettinga (12/21), Jane Reilly-Smith (12/23), Mike Dellenbach (12/27), Linda Swenson (12/27), Joyce Lohr (12/30), Mary McDonell (12/31)

A very Happy Birthday to all of you celebrating in December!



Andrea & Scott Schaefer (15) 12/13

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Pastor Elijah Lekwate. Email for Justice Pule: pulejustice74@gmail.com

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



THE STAFF AT IMMANUEL





Thank you for sharing your poinsettias!

**Bob Henning in memory of
 Vonnie Henning
 Neil & Mary Munson
 Floyd Hallberg
 Dan & Holly Westaby
 Jim Stolen
 Donna Neiter**

**Dixie Burk
 Jane Reilly-Smith
 Joanne Diestelhorst
 Judy Kort
 Bob Doede**

Serving us in December 2024

| December 2024 | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| DATE | PIANIST / ORGANIST | READER | USHER / GREETERS | VIDEO TAPER | COMMUNION |
| 12/1/2024 | Karen Z | Vern Diestelhorst | Bruce Knox | BH | Pastor Tryphine |
| 12/8/2024 | Karen Z | Adam Doede | Bob Doede | BH | |
| 12/15/2024 | | Sue Schwede | Mike Schwede | BH | |
| 12/22/2024 | Karen Z | Doug Helling | Dan Westaby | BH | Rev. Helling |
| 12/24/2024 | | Vern Diestelhorst | Bruce & Kathy Knox | BH | |
| 12/29/2024 | Karen Z | Al Solomonson | Dan Westaby | BH | |
| Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Diestelhorst, Pattie Bricko & Holly Westaby | | | | | |

Pastor Tryphine, Deacon Everett Schmidt, Kathy Robinson and Rev Helling will be serving us this month

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
2024 Income vs Expenses**

| Month | Income Received | Expenses Paid | Notes | Difference | Spec Funds income | Total Deposit |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| January | \$12,713 | \$12,602 | | \$110.78 | \$76.54 | \$12,789.54 |
| February | \$10,764 | \$8,031 | | \$2,733.44 | \$605 | \$11,369.33 |
| March | \$10,814 | \$6,426 | | \$4,388.38 | \$132.00 | \$10,946.00 |
| April | \$12,965 | \$7,730 | | \$5,234.71 | \$1,556.00 | \$14,521.00 |
| May | \$8,092 | \$8,168 | | (\$76.17) | \$97.00 | \$8,189.00 |
| June | \$11,171 | \$4,075 | | \$7,096.50 | \$194.00 | \$11,365.00 |
| July | \$11,303 | \$5,946 | | \$5,357.06 | \$1,424.00 | \$12,727.00 |
| August | \$9,743 | \$8,720 | | \$1,022.84 | \$43.00 | \$9,786.00 |
| September | \$16,968 | \$3,398 | | \$13,569.37 | \$856.00 | \$17,823.61 |
| October | \$9,434 | \$8,864 | | \$569.69 | \$170.00 | \$9,604.00 |
| November | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| December | | | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Totals | \$113,966.94 | \$73,960.34 | | \$40,006.60 | \$5,153.54 | \$119,120.48 |

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - August 21, 2024

Members Present: President - Bob Henning, Vice President - Dan Zinsmeister, Treasurer - Matt Munson, Financial Secretary - Patti Busche, Properties – Dan Westaby, Worship - Holly Westaby

Members missing: Stewardship – Rick Lohr

Devotions: Led by Patti – Isaiah 49: 8 – 13 – Obstacles - Christ always proves the way, the strength and the support to move on toward the goal of eternal life.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

Church Officers Reports:

- Secretary Report: Reviewed minutes from meeting on 6-17-24. No corrections. Notes stand as published in newsletter.
- Treasurer Report: Continue to have net gain for the year. \$945 remains to be disbursed in Church Seasonal Offering. Motion to accept July Treasurers reports was made Patti and seconded by Dan Z. Motion Approved.
- Financial Secretary: Correct ‘Building Find’ to ‘Building Fund’. Motion to approve made by Kathy and 2nd by Matt. Motion Approved.
- Vice President Report: Need contractor to look at roof as there are a lot of patches over the choir loft. Insurance increases in 2025. Requested detail from Church Mutual but no response yet. Received quote from Clements Insurance. Will follow up with Church Mutual. Discussed what to cover for replacement value.

President:

Discussed interest from Jackie Loos to rejoin as Administrative Assistant. Hours 9:00 – 2:00 for 4 days a week. Total hours 20-24 if needed more plus 4 days holiday pay. Kathy made motion to offer job to Jackie and Dan W. 2nded it. Motion carried. We placed call to Jackie during meeting. She has accepted and we will put the offer to her in writing. Will need 2 weeks before start and she will let us know her start date.

Committee Reports:

- Education: No report
- Properties Report:
 1. Women’s bathroom by Bride’s room had toilet plug and running water in sink and toilet. Discussed replacing toilets and sinks in both women’s and men’s bathrooms in basement. Dan W. will get quote.
 2. Repairs needed for many leaks throughout the building. Some outside caulking has already been completed.
 3. Discussed paying Larry Hotchkiss for mowing lawn this summer. Dan Z. made motion to give him check for \$200 and Holly 2nd Motion Approved.
- Social Concerns: No report.
- Stewardship: No report.
- Worship Report: Meeting with other churches on possible round robin. Council thanked Holly for her hard work on the bulletin the past months.

Unfinished Business:

1. Simplex panel – 2 estimates to replace or add cellular phone option.
2. Audit – Kathy has people interested and will reach out to them. Jackie will be able to assist putting documents together as she has done in the past.
3. Reviewed requests received for donations from various entities – none approved at this time.

New Business: reviewed motions approved by congregation at semi-annual meeting to hire Kathy Robinson as part time and contact the Salvation Army to see if interested in using our facilities for shelter. No objections from Council.

Next council meeting – Tuesday, September 24 at 6:00 pm in council room.

Lord’s Prayer

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Busche, Financial Secretary

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - October 27, 2024

Members Present: President - Bob Henning, Financial Secretary - Patti Busche, Properties – Dan Westaby, Worship - Holly Westaby, Social Concerns – Kathy Knox

Members missing: Stewardship – Rick Lohr, Treasurer – Matt Munson

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Devotions: led by Dan – Reformation reflects on spiritual growth and the grace of God.

Church Officers Reports:

Secretary Report: Reviewed minutes from meeting on 8-21-24. Correct ‘room to ‘roof’ in Vice Presidents report. Notes approved without objection.

Treasurer Report: no report

Financial Secretary: Reviewed August & September reports. Reports approved without objection.
Vice President Report- position open

President

- Bob met with Kay from Pilgrim – they are still in discussion with other churches for merger. Immanuel needs to meet with St. Stephen's.
- Received "25 Issues of Consolidation" which Bob will review
- Bob met with Pastor Gary (current interim at St. Andrew's). He will be leaving on vacation and supply pastors will fill in.
- Contract given to Kathy Robinson for review and signature. Patti made motion that Bob should sign returned contract. Holly 2nd. Motion approved.
- Bob has been able to be in the office 2 days a week.

Committee Reports:

Education: No report

Properties Report:

1. Bathrooms have been fixed on the lower level.
2. Sealing complete around the outside of the building.
3. Joe Conti will do snow plowing and salting this winter.
4. Dan Zinsmeister is working on obtaining quotes for the tuck point.
5. Church Mutual met with Bob & reviewed building. Took needed pictures as concern with roof. They are writing up a new contract for our review.
6. Leaf pick-up begins this week. Dan & Holly will do some raking today.
7. Flat roof repairs – received estimate of \$23,000 for small roof and \$48,000 for big roof from Yutzy in Marshfield. Great Lakes Roofing gave estimate of \$3000 - \$4000 for repair of big roof. Need to contact Stuart Roofing for estimate as they did the latest repairs.

AGENDA ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING: Roof Repair

8. Elevator oil change due - \$9450 + tax from current provider. Need to find business in town that can test the oil to see if still good due to low usage.

Social Concerns: No report.

Stewardship: No report. Note: pledge cards have been mailed out.

Worship Report: Funeral for Carol Hazen this week. All Saint's Day is Sunday and will print names of passed members in bulletin for remembrance. Christmas Eve will be one service at 4:00 pm. No Christmas Day service.

Unfinished Business:

1. Shared Ministry – see president's report.

New Business: provided update on contract to Kathy Robinson in president's report.

Next council meeting – Tuesday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned @ 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Busche, Financial Secretary

Facility

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

▶ **Jeff Groethe**

**Forest Park Village,
2901 N. 7th
Street#W503
Wausau, WI
(715) 675-3986**

▶ **Joan Bonstead**

Home

▶ **Mrs. Mary Anne
Klinker**
1402 W Knox St
Wausau WI 54401
(715) 298-4313

▶ **Mrs. Leora Mitchell**
228402 Lanner Ave
Wausau WI 54403
(715) 845-8373

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

▶ **Carol Hettinga, Rm
307**

**Mt. View Care Center
of Wausau, 2400
Marshall Street,
Wausau, WI 54403**

715-848-4300

**Judy Blanchfield,
#4007**

**Primrose Retirement
Community**
2100 Townline Rd,
Wausau, WI 54403:

▶ **Thelma Bursik, Apt
#101**

(715) 297-1785

▶ **Faye Schwarm Apt
#133**
(715) 842-7553

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

▶ **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. ☎