

# Immanuel Image

## January 2018



**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.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 28th immediately following the 9:00 am worship service. Please plan on attending this important meeting.**

**Financial Reports** for the Semi-Annual Meeting need to be emailed or dropped off in the office by January 9th, 2018, in order to allow time to put the reports together for distribution.

**An updated telephone directory** will be available at the meeting also.



**Mitten Tree** - Thank you for your donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. You may knit, crochet, or purchased the items. The tree will be up until the end of January. The items collected will be taken to the Neighbor's Place. If you have questions, contact Marge W., Social Concerns.

**The following groups of ILC members will be blessed during 9:00 am worship service:**

January 7	All Altar Guild Members	January 14	All Counting Team Members
January 21	Everyone who helped with Lefse	February 4	All Assisting Ministers

**Community Dinner** - Social Concerns will be serving dinner on January 28th at First Presbyterian Church. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the food, serve, clean-up and bring salads and desserts. Please watch for sign up sheets in the Narthex. Marge W., Social Concerns

**"Souper Bowl" of Caring Food Drive Challenge** - Watch for more details. Pick up an extra food item when you go shopping.

**Your 2017 Year End Tax Statements** may be picked up starting January 10th, 2018. They will be available during office hours Monday - Thursday or in the Narthex on Sundays. All statements not picked up will be mailed on Monday, January 29th.

## Pastor's Report

**For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future( Jeremiah 29:11).**

God has given us a new year. New Year means new chance, hope, and a new dream. I believe that God is inviting us to make this year different than other years. I encourage you this New Year to focus on shaping our identity as Immanuel Lutheran Church (ILC).

I noticed that we have two different opinions about our ministry and identity. Some of us try to keep things as they are at ILC. Others want to see a new spirit in our church and at the same time to keep being proud of our heritage. I keep hearing people saying "This is not who we are;" and others say "We need to reconstruct our identity." I believe that we need to come together to find common ground and work together.

Our synod through the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) is going to help us to find common ground by inviting us to participate in Congregational Vitality Survey (CVS). This survey does not evaluate our ministry but offers some tools to help us to put our vision and mission into practice and to be more vital in our community. The church council has voted to invite the DEM of our Synod to meet with the church council and then with the entire congregation to help us to take the necessary steps to be a more vital congregation. Therefore, this year we will spend time working with the DEM.

I trust in the leadership of our church council. Each member of the church council is working very hard to help our church to be a more vital church in our community and the world. But, they cannot do everything by themselves. If we want to be a more vital congregation, we are called to commit ourselves to work with our church council and with the DEM of our synod. I encourage you to participate in taking the CVS, which will be in January, and to attend the meetings with the DEM.

I firmly believe that Jesus Christ will continue to walk with us and through us. I encourage you to trust in God's plan for ILC because God's "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

- ◆ **"Noisy Offering"** - Save all your change for the **first Sunday** of each month. Social Concerns uses the money to help feed the needy in our area.
- ◆ **Holy Communion** is celebrated the **first and third Sunday** of each month. Please remember to sign the Friendship/Attendance pad that is in each pew when you are taking communion. This information is entered into the office computer.

## Congregational Vitality Survey (CVS)

The ELCA developed a survey to help ELCA congregations quickly discover their strengths and challenges in areas important to ministry. This CVS is a tool for helping our congregation to learn how we perceive our connections with God, each other and the world. This survey also will help us to plan for our ministry in 2018.

The church council has decided to have the congregation take the survey on January 21 and again on January 28. On January 21, we will end the worship service 10 minutes earlier than usual so that the congregation will have a chance to fulfill the survey. On January 28, the members who did not have an opportunity to fill out the survey on January 21 will have a chance to do so before we start our semi-annual meeting.

The survey should take you approximately 10 minutes to complete. Your participation in this survey is highly important.

Once the survey is closed, the data will be sent to a researcher who will analyze it and complete a written report. That report will be shared with Rev. Jean DeVoll-Donaldson, the Bishop's Associate for Evangelical Mission in our synod. It usually takes about two weeks from the time the survey is closed for the report to be completed. Rev. Jean will arrange a time to share the report with Immanuel to help us make sense of the information and determine appropriate next steps.

### “Following Christ in this World” – ECSW Justice and Advocacy Event

ECSW is offering a one-day workshop to share ideas of how we can help advocate for people in need including those affected by the immigration crisis and human trafficking. Speakers will be Bishop Gerald Mansholt and Pastor Cindy Crane of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy. The workshop costs \$15 and will be offered twice: **Saturday, January 26th at Our Saviour's in Appleton and Saturday, February 3rd at Trinity in Waupaca.** To register, go to [www.ecsw.org](http://www.ecsw.org). The deadline is January 19th.

Brochures may be picked up at ILC office or contact the church office and one will be emailed to you.

**Let's Learn Together: Peace Not Walls** - A new three-week Sunday study will begin on January 14th. We will meet on January 21st and again on February 4th. We will come together to learn more about the Holy Land. A couple of Immanuel's own historians will give us an overview of the early history and bring us to more recent happenings in the past couple centuries. We will visually visit the area, share with each other what we learn from our individual reading, and even enjoy a taste of the region. Claudette Haring and Carolyn Michalski will share personal experiences and understandings from their recent pilgrimage among Jews, Christians, and Muslims living in this troubled region. Join us!

## **Immanuel Fellowship Opportunities**

*Fellowship not only makes the journey endurable and even enjoyable; it also helps keep us healthy.*

### **Men's Discussion Group - Al Solomonson**

The Men's Discussion Group meets every Thursday at 7:30 am in the Koinonia Room. We will NOT meet January 4th or 11th. We will resume on January 18th. All men are welcome to attend.

### **Altar Guild - Dwala Smail**

Next meeting: January 17th at 1:00 pm. New members are always welcome.

### **Dorcas Circle - Claudette Harring**

You are always welcome to join our group. Contact Claudette for date and time.

### **All Women of Immanuel - Vonnie Solomonson**

### **Sarah Circle - Janice Reinhardt**

We will meet on January 25th at 1:00. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## **What Does the Bible Mean to You?**

What do Bible stories mean to you? How do other people understand the Bible? Here's your chance to take part in a different kind of Bible study and have fun exploring how and why Bible stories mean different things to different people. This four-session Bible study will be in the January through April issues of Gather ([gathermagazine.org](http://gathermagazine.org)).

Mark Allen Powell, author of the study, says "[This Gathering Bible study] is going to engender a lot of discussion." Powell has authored 25 books on the Bible and religions. Gather magazine is being used by our mid-week study groups. Please note the dates/times these groups meet and join in this discussion. If you have never been a part of this experience before, now is your time.

## **Senior Home Safety Program**

Are you afraid of falling in your home? Would you feel safer with grab bars in your bathroom or hand rails to help keep your balance? Accidental falls are one of the leading causes of injury and death in people over 65 worldwide.

Faith in Action of Marathon County will provide a free home safety assessment and install the necessary home safety enhancements for area seniors. Our trained and skilled volunteers will help you to feel safer in your home with the installation of grab bars and/or hand railings to allow you to live more safely and independently in your home.

If you, or someone you know could benefit from home safety enhancements, please call Faith in Action of Marathon County at 715-848-8783 to discuss.

## Birthday Blessings To You!

### January

- 3 Dan Dellenbach
- 4 Jennifer Schafer
- 5 Dustin Sedlar
- 6 Sarah Doede  
Susan Schwede
- 7 Jason Taylor
- 8 Angela Lenselink  
Michael Steltenpohl
- 9 Harlan Grinde
- 10 Elaine Grinde
- 12 Jeffrey Burk  
Connie Lewitzke
- 13 Megan Bickford
- 14 Clair Baker
- 15 Linda Hulstrom
- 18 Jamie Rice-Heckendorf
- 25 Dolores Riege  
Scott Schafer
- 26 Vern Diestelhorst  
Marge Warner
- 29 Corey Busche

★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

## Anniversary Wishes To These Special Couples!

The following couples are celebrating  
their Wedding Anniversary

### January

- |    |                         |          |
|----|-------------------------|----------|
| 1  | Jerry and Judy Nickolai | 35 years |
| 7  | Bruce and Kathy Knox    | 42 years |
| 20 | Jim and Pat Stolen      | 50 years |
| 24 | Bob and Sue Doede       | 42 years |
| 31 | Clair and Bille Baker   | 37 years |

### Congratulations!



Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery that occurs in every state, like Wisconsin. Trafficking often happens for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Almost everybody in Wisconsin loves to watch the super bowl, but what lies beyond the public eye is the darker side of the super bowl. That season might be the occasion for the highest volume of sex trafficking of the whole year. The sporting event attracts more traffickers than any other in the U.S.

We are at war against human traffickers. For this reason, our Synod is encouraging us to pray for the victims of the human traffickers during the football season. Everyday, our church is going to post on Facebook a special prayer for the victims till the football season is over.

## Caring Corner . . .



*Our friends who are not able to come to church as often as they would like, but would love to hear from you or receive cards in the mail. Please call the church office if you would like to be added.*

### FACILITY

#### **Bell Tower Residence**

**1500 O'Day St, Merrill WI 54452**

\* Barb Peterson (Rm 209)

#### **Colonial Manor**

**1010 E. Wausau Ave, Wausau WI 54403**

\* Norm Winterhoff

#### **Forest Park Village**

**2901 N. 7th St., Wausau WI 54403**

\* Dolores Riege (Apt N301)

#### **Island Place Apartments**

**400 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403**

\* Joan Lind (Apt #123)

#### **Primrose Retirement Community**

**2100 Townline Rd., Wausau WI 54403**

\* Thelma Bursik (Apt #101)

### HOME

Arlene Dopkins

725 Fulton St., Wausau WI 54403

Carol Hettinga

1820 Clarberth St., Schofield WI 54476

Esther Osterby

3018 Springdale Ave., Wausau WI 54401

Dale Westaby

8811 Gusman Rd., Weston WI 54476

### **AARP Foundation FREE 2017 Income Tax Preparation for Low-to-moderate income taxpayers; Emphasis on age 60+**

Appointments Required—call 715-298-5734; January 10-April 7, 2018; weekdays 9am-1pm

⇒ UW Extension, 212 River Dr., Wausau

Tues. & Wed. 7:45am—12:15pm; Feb. 6-April 11

⇒ Merrill Enrichment Center, 303 N Sales St, Merrill

Thurs. Feb. 15 & Thurs. March 15; 9am-2pm

⇒ Mosinee Methodist Church, Community Room, 607 13th St, Mosinee, Thurs. March 22;

10:30am-1:30pm **APPOINTMENT REQUIRED. NO WALK-INS ALLOWED**

The following locations accept walk-ins.

⇒ Kannenberg Plaza, 1240 Merrill Ave., Wausau Thurs. Feb 22 8am-noon

⇒ Riverview Towers, 500 Grand Ave., Wausau Thurs. March 1 1pm-4pm



**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

**"Bless all the dear children  
 in your tender care ..."**

*Away in a Manger, ELW 277*

Dear Friends,

Gathered as church in Christmas hope, we feel deeply our oneness with all the people of the world. From wee ones dressed in angel costumes singing "Away in a Manger" to ancient ones humming along and all of us in between, and wherever on this earth we dwell, we are all dear children in God's tender care.

And even as we sing of a weary world, even as we look back at a year of troubled times, we know that in Christ we live in God's creation—a world of plenty, a thankful, abundant world. So we are a church that works for sustainable livelihoods, for justice and peace for all. We are a church that reaches out, farther together than we could ever do alone. We walk with churches and communities here at home and around the globe, accompanying our sisters and brothers, in awe of their faith, wisdom and hope.

With the love given in the manger so long ago and your faithful support, fragile and vulnerable communities become strong and resilient, today and for the future.

Thank you for your gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response this year. Thanks to you, together we're working for justice and peace in the United States and more than 60 countries around the world. May God bless you this Christmas and always, even as you and your generosity are a blessing to others.

With gratitude,

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
 Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Thank you,  
 Immanuel  
 Lutheran,  
 and thanks be to God  
 for you!*

*Dan*

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 • 773-380-2700 or 800-638-3522 • ELCA.org

**Presentation Volunteers Needed** - We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the presentations (on the tv screen in church) for Sunday worship services. This information is done thru Microsoft Office PowerPoint. This can be done from your home or at church on the computer. Most of the work will be a copy and paste, but it takes time to prepare the presentation during the week. We also need people each week to run the presentation during the worship service. Please sign up in the Narthex if you are interested in helping. Training provided.

## Sharing God's Light Fundraiser Update

A HUGE thank you to the warm and generous hearts of the members at Immanuel Lutheran Church! ILC is a member church of Greater Wausau Christian Services. GWCS received wonderful support for their bible ministry through monies donated in the Sharing God's Light fund raiser campaign right here at ILC! To date, donations totaling over \$475 have been collected at ILC for the bible fund, with an additional \$350 for special operational budget needs. Thank you Jamie Rice-Heckendorf, Mary and Tom McDonell, and Nancy and Pastor Doug Helling for hosting coffee hours after service in support of the bible fund. Thank you to the Immanuel Lutheran Church Women, the church council, the Sunday School children and each and every one of you that gave individual donations. Every gift given is appreciated with gratitude by the GWCS staff, board and most importantly, those who receive our services!



Janci Treutel

Thank you to all the children in Sunday School for their lovely Christmas program.

Thank you also to Joanne Diestelhorst, Jerry and Judy Nickolai, Justin and Jorden Nickolai, Marino Taylor, the Sunday School teachers, parents and everyone who helped with the Christmas program.

Thank you to the choir and handbell choir for their beautiful music.

A HUGE Thank You to all for your generous gift in filling the Reverse Advent Calendar grocery shopping bags for the Neighbor's Place. Social Concerns

## Immanuel Lutheran Church – 2017 Church Council Agenda

Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 6:35 pm. Exec. Committee meets from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm  
Present: Pres; Bob Henning, VP; Jamie Rice-Heckendorf, Tres; Phyllis Hustedt, Sec; Linda Hulstrom, Fin. Sec; Patti Busche, Education; Judy Nickolai, Evangelism; Judy McGill, Properties; Jerry Nickolai, Social Concerns; Marge Warner, Worship; Judy Kort, Youth; Maggie Westaby, Pastor; Niveen Sarras

Absent: Kristin Kallio

### Agenda

1. Devotions – Maggie Westaby “What you are Thankful for” shared response by all present.
2. Call the meeting to order
3. Church officer reports
  - a. Secretary
    - i. October Minutes; Linda emailed thru 1&1 church website but council members only received Agenda text, not minutes. Linda called 1&1 tech support but they couldn't recover. So

current Oct Council minutes are from memory. Nov minutes have been prepared separately & sent to 1&1 mail.

b. Treasurer: Phyllis reviewed ILC Oct. 2017 (Version 1 ) Operating Budget, & Current Position & Designated Funds. She sent \$200. To GWCS to purchase Bibles for jail. She has sent out \$1657. To our sister church, Lobatla Lutheran for building blocks for church. Also \$916. (+ \$100. From Joyce Lohr) was sent to Hurricane Fund. Motion by Jerry to hold reports for Audit, 2nd by Marge, Motion passed.

c. Financial Secretary: Patti reviewed Oct 2017 report. Motion by Maggie to hold for Audit, 2nd by Jerry, Motion passed.

d. Vice President; Jamie reminded all to be more positive with each other. She suggested a review with Police Dept. on safety measures.

e. President: No report

#### Committee Reports

a. Education: Christmas pageant will be Dec. 17. After Christmas, Sunday school will be every other week.

b. Evangelism: Judi reported Pastor and Sue need more help in office. Both she & Marge will be assisting when possible. Also she is trying to compile a list of current ILC members.

c. Properties: Jerry reported the Presentation hardware is up & running. There are several light bulbs out he's replacing. He's looking into cost of bluetooth hearing aid support in church to allow better sound for people with hearing devices.

d. Social Concerns: Marge reported 78 people were served at Community dinner in Oct. Mitten Tree will be up soon & hats & mittens will be delivered on an ongoing basis to those in need. She will also be giving Christmas cards & treats to Shut-ins & our Military members.

e. Stewardship: no report

f. Youth: Serenity Hulstrom & Brittany Riehle had fun & were a blessing to have at the Pizza making day. Nov 26 will be a Youth outing to see the Million plus Christmas lights at the Wildwood Park & Zoo in Marshfield, all families are welcome.

g. Worship: The Shalom room has been transformed into a chapel with the help of Jerry, Jack Kline & Matt. This will be a permanent and more intimate room for small services, starting with Dec 6th Advent Service

Pastor's Report: she will be on vacation Nov 22 - Dec 2. She needs help in office with calls. She's requesting the Altar Guild committee update the Wedding Policy. The Genesis Fund (normally used at Pastor's discretion, but she isn't comfortable using church funds) so Jamie & Bob Henning will assist with decisions. Pastor suggest Social Concerns confidentially select a few families in need due an emergency, fire, etc.

Bethesda is in need of help for Worship services to disabled people. She thinks using new Shalom room would be a great option.

She & Joanne Diestelhorst meet with the Synod staff director of Evangelism. Director said we need to have a Survey done & she will give us ideas of how to grow our church. The Synod will cover the cost of Survey along with a grant so it will not cost ILC anything. Judi M from Evangelism will assist her with Survey as well. She will be teaching at UW on Monday's from Feb 5th - April 16, 2018.

#### 6. Old Business

a. Photo Directory discussion tabled.

b. Organ; Judy K. Reported the cost to repair/replace is \$26,795. Carl Z. feels it is a fair estimate and he will pledge \$1000. Towards it. Rueben Roehl will also donate in honor of Rosemary. Judy K will also donate her unpaid past wages earned and \$1000. She will discuss this further at the Semi-annual meeting in Jan 2018. Jamie made a Motion to allow Judy K to transfer her past salary compensation to the Organ fund, 2nd by Phyllis, Motion passed.

c. Food for the Poor After discussion, it was decided not to proceed further at this time with any new organizations for benevolence.

**New Business**

a. Semi Meeting Date has been set for Jan 28th, 2018

b. Budget Not ready for review yet, table till Dec.

c. Endowment Fund request need to be turned in to Bob Reinertson in Dec 2017.

Round Table; Dec 19 is next meeting with Christmas celebration as well so meeting will be focused on Budget.

**9. Meeting Adjourned.**

Minutes were approved by council on December 19, 2017. Motion to accept minutes by Judi McGill, 2nd by Marge Warner.

Prayerfully submitted by Linda Hulstrom  
Council Secretary

<b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b>			
<b>2017 Income vs Expenses</b>			
<b>Month</b>	<b>Income Received</b>	<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>January</b>	\$ 15,340.00	\$ 10,510.00	
<b>February</b>	\$ 14,834.00	\$ 9,883.00	
<b>March</b>	\$ 14,411.00	\$ 13,950.00	
<b>April</b>	\$ 22,808.00	\$ 8,055.00	
<b>May</b>	\$ 14,177.00	\$ 14,201.00	
<b>June</b>	\$ 15,824.00	\$ 19,246.00	
<b>July</b>	\$ 15,865.00	\$ 13,297.00	
<b>August</b>	\$ 12,850.00	\$ 15,120.00	
<b>September</b>	\$ 12,414.00	\$ 5,177.00	
<b>October</b>	\$ 14,717.00	\$ 18,796.00	
<b>November</b>	\$ 18,397.00	\$ 19,886.00	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 171,637.00</b>	<b>\$ 148,122.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,515.00</b>

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

www.immanuelwausau.org

## STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras  
**Email:** pastor@immanuelwausau.org  
**Emergency only:** 510-355-4352

**Admin. Assistant:** Sue Bargender  
**Email:** info@immanuelwausau.org

**Organists:** Judy Kort, Adele Bluhm, & Rodney Riese  
**Handbell Choir Director:** Joanne Diestelhorst  
**Custodians:** Paul Smith and Matt Munson

**Pianist:** Marino Taylor  
**Choir Director:** Kay Pope  
**Sunday School:** Judy Nickolai

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Bob Henning  
**Treasurer:** Phyllis Hustedt  
**Secretary:** Linda Hulstrom

**Vice President:** Jamie Rice-Heckendorf  
**Financial Secretary:** Patti Busche

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Executive Committee**  
**Education:** Judy Nickolai  
**Worship:** Judy Kort  
**Stewardship:** Kristin Kallio

**Property:** Jerry Nickolai  
**Evangelism:** Judi McGill,  
**Youth:** Maggie Westaby  
**Social Concerns:** Marge Warner

## Scheduled Meetings for January

January 16th	6:00 PM	Executive Committee
January 16th	6:35 PM	Council Meeting
January 28th	Immediately following 9:00 am Worship Service will be Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting	

## **Our Sister Church**

Lobatla Parish,  
c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. T. J. Ditibane  
P.O. Box 160, Motswedi, 2870,  
Republic of South Africa



**Sign up for your special Sunday to honor a loved one, a birthday, or an anniversary.**

Please sign up in the Narthex on the flower chart.

Thank you, Altar Guild

**Article Deadline for February Newsletter:  
Monday, January 22.**

**Hosts are needed for the 2018 Fellowship Hour.**



# Immanuel Image

January 2018

Immanuel Lutheran Church

630 Adams St

Wausau, WI 54403

NON PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

WAUSAU WI

PERMIT 6235

## Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

[pastor@immanuelwausau.org](mailto:pastor@immanuelwausau.org)

Mon. 10:30-11:00 am & 1:30-2:00 pm

Tues. 10:30-11:00 am

Wed. visiting homebound parishioners

Thurs. 1:30-2:00 pm, Fri. off

## Office

[info@immanuelwausau.org](mailto:info@immanuelwausau.org)

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - noon

Phone 715-842-3644

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## Website

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

## Follow us on Facebook

Immanuel Lutheran Church Wausau

## Worship Services

Sunday - 9:00 am

## Sunday School

September 24 through May 20

Sunday - 10:15 am

## Fellowship Hour

Sunday - 10:15 am

## TV Worship Services

Charter Cable Channel 980

5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15 am Thursday

If you are interested in watching any of the last two months of worship services, they are on the internet: **[waam.viebit.com](http://waam.viebit.com)** (Wausau Area Access Media), on the left side of the screen, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran & click on the service.