

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church
Service of the Word
Sunday, January 3, 2021
Second Sunday of Christmas

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Canticle of Praise	Glory to God	pg. 204
Greeting		

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	#289
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First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel Acclamation	pg. 205
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Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Pulpit Hymn	“Let Our Gladness Have No End”	#291
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Sermon	Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras
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Hymn of the Day	“Christ, Be Our Light”	#715
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Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands,

deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially those who suffer of terminal illness like cancer*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord we lift up before you all who are in need of your help. We pray especially for Thelma, Esther, Kathrine-Sylvia, Abber, Jazel, Joelle, Odeh, April, Brianna, Alice, Charissa, Scott, Phyllis, Mary, Ashley, Laura, David, Sara, Jeff, Edie, Joan, Jamie & Mike, Ted, Pastor Mark (Dixie Burk's Brother), Maggie, and Sonya. We also pray for our sister Parish Lobatha in South Africa asking you to please them in this new year. Inspire us to walk with them and share your love with each other. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of Peace

Offering

Offertory Hymn

"That Boy-Child of Mary"

#293 vv. 1,3,6

Offering Prayer

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"The Bells of Christmas"

#298

Dismissal

Prayer Concerns: Thelma, Esther, Kathrine-Sylvia, Abber, Jezel, Joelle, Odeh, April, Brianna, Alice, Charissa, Scott, Phyllis, Mary, Ashley, Laura, David, Sara, Jeff, Edie, Joan, Jamie & Mike, Ted, Pastor Mark (Dixie Burk's Brother), Maggie Westaby, Pat Stolen, and Sonya (Jackie's Sister-in-Law).

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. The address is: c/o Justice Pule, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa.

NEWS

2020 Contribution Statements. On Thursday, January 14, 2021, 2020 Contribution Statements will be available for pickup. A table will be set up by the entrance of the church office. Any statements that are not picked up will be mailed on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

January 2021 Newsletter will be mailed on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 will be the next confirmation class (virtual).

Holy Communion is now available at ILC. This table is located by the front office. Each package contains the Body of Christ and a prayer. Pastor Niveen has blessed each one. All the packages were assembled using the highest sanitizing measures.

Because several of you have received the Holy Communion smashed in the mail, **the church office will stop mailing the Holy Communion.** Therefore, you have three options: First option: pick up the Holy Communion from the church. Second option: you can come to church and the pastor will pray with you and give you the Holy Communion. The pastor will practice social distancing. Third option: call the church office at (715) 842-3644 and ask that the Holy Communion be mailed to you. The ILC homebound individuals will continue to receive the Holy Communion by mail.

Secured Mailbox: There is one installed next to the church office. It is on the outside the building on the wall. You are encouraged to drop your offering there.

Stewardship Committee - - Reminder: Please get "gifting cards" handed in. Thank you.

TeleCare: "phone call of love."

Grace and peace to you. We no longer have an evangelism committee team. Evangelism's most significant responsibility, according to our constitution, is to help the pastor to keep in touch with the church members, particularly those who no longer come regularly to the church. I need a group who is willing to participate in the TeleCare Ministry.

What Is TeleCare? In short, TeleCare ministry is lay-led and lay-driven evangelism and pastoral ministry that expresses your church's care and concern to every member on the ILC membership list. The best way to describe it is "phone call of love."

How Does TeleCare Work? The genius behind the "phone call of love" is the only question that callers ask. It goes like this: TeleCare ministry volunteers will call a church member asking this question: "We're calling to see how you are and if there's anything you want us to pray for?" The pastor will provide to the volunteers the name of parishioners to call. If something the pastor should be aware of, the volunteers must report back to the pastor. You do not need to be at church to participate in this ministry. You can make calls from home.

The most significant benefit of TeleCare is that you are regularly calling ILC members, saying, basically, "We love you and want to support you in prayer." Your beloved people will feel cared for and looked after by their church. Please let me (Pastor) know if you are interested.

We are looking for 1 item for ILC: A 24" or 30" circular rug for the Gathering room to go under the plant as watering has caused a stain in the carpeting, if you have one you could donate.

- **Mitten Tree:** The Mitten Tree is set up. It will be available through the end of January. You may bring donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and sweaters to put under the tree. The items collected will be taken to the Neighbor's Place. Please contact Janci for additional information.

- **Olive Oil is Here!** Canaan Fair Trade olive oil is available in the church office. The 500 ml bottles are available in the church office for \$15.00. 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!

- **In-Person Worship Service has been suspended until further notice.** The following ILC services and ministries will continue to be online, via telephone and Spectrum TV:
 - Our Facebook Page: @ILCWausau
 - Our YouTube Channel: Search "Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau Wisconsin, Inc." on Sunday afternoon.
 - Our Website: <http://www.immanuelwausau.org> (Click on Video Gallery)
 - Spectrum TV Cable Channel 980 at 11AM Sunday, 5:45 PM Tuesday & 9:15 AM Thursday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran.)
 - **Dial-a-Sermon is Live. Dial 1-715-200-9495.** Pastor Niveen's weekly sermon is now available on any telephone.

Church office phone number is 715-842-3644 for emergency call 510-355-4352