

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent
Service of the Holy Communion

Prelude

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Canticle of Praise

“Glory to God”

pg. 148

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God

#505

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

Pg. 151

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

#517

Prayers of Intercession

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

- **Sunday, February 28, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required.
- **Sunday, March 7, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required, 10:30 AM masks optional.
- **Sunday, March 14, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks optional.
- **Sunday, March 21, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required.
- **Sunday, March 28, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks optional.
- **Sunday, April 4, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required, 10:30 AM masks optional.

Future dates and options will be published in the newsletter and posted on our web site.

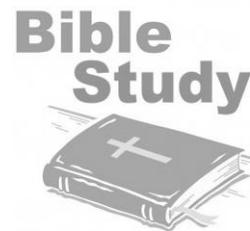
All Lenten Services will be virtual with the option of a virtual Sunday Service.

- 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. Pastor Niveen’s direct line is 510-355-4352.

4 Virtual Session Bible Studies at 10:30 AM

Of all the people admired in the world today, Jesus of Nazareth continually ranks at the top of the list. Even those who don't call themselves Christians regard Jesus as one of the wisest teachers and most loving leaders the world has ever known. He is still making the covers of magazines and being talked about in coffee shops with a popularity like no other person who has walked this earth. So why did his contemporaries kill him?



This five-session study examines Jesus as not simply meek and mild, but as a dangerous man because he was and is the God who is dangerously good. Take a fresh look at Jesus' call to action.

Session One: February 28, 2021 - Get Off the Fence

Jesus won't accept neutrality.

Matthew 12:22–32

We have to buck life in a fence-walking world. Ground yourself on God's side of the fence through spiritual disciplines.

Session Two: March 14, 2021 - Complete the Circle of Grace and Works

Sometimes Jesus sets conditions on grace.

Luke 6:37–42

As Christians, we know that we get to spend eternity in heaven, not because

we're such great people, but because Jesus is. Yet, what does that mean as we respond to the remarkable grace God has shown us in Christ?

Session Three: March 21, 2021 - Check Your Bags

What are you dragging around with you?

Matthew 19:16–30

All of us carry loads that are often of our own making. Lent is a great time to look at those loads and see what needs to be repacked and what needs to be tossed.

Session Four: March 28, 2021 - Come Die with Me

Sometimes Jesus is really scary.

Matthew 16:21–28

There are few words Jesus ever spoke that are scarier: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."

Our Virtual Synod Assembly will be on Friday and Saturday, May 14th & 15th, 2021. Al & Vonnie Solomonson will represent ILC.

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.

● **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!

Special Tax Deduction for 2020: This year, there's an additional component at play with so many people, businesses and organizations struggling due to COVID-19. Many people may not realize it, but there's a special tax deduction available for them through Dec. 31, 2020 for cash donations up to \$300 to qualifying charities. This deduction is designed especially for people who choose to take the standard deduction, rather than itemizing. Please consult with your tax professional to see if you qualify.

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