

**Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church
Lectionary 24 | Service of the Word
Sunday, September 13, 2020**

**Prelude
Announcements**

Confession and Forgiveness

Opening Hymn	“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”	#834
Greeting		
Canticle of Praise	“Glory to God”	pg. 121

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm: Psalm 114

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel Acclamation	pg. 124
Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35	

Pulpit Hymn	“Our Father, We Have Wandered”	#606
Sermon		Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

Hymn of the Day	“God’s Work, Our Hands”
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The Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of Intercession

A.M.: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care. We pray especially for Thelma, Esther, Barb, Kathrine-Sylvia, Jezel, Joelle, Ibrahim and Odeh, Norm, April, Brianna, Alice, Charissa, Scott, Phyllis, Mary, Ashley, Laura, David, Sara, Jeff, Edie, Joan, Ted, Pastor Mark (Dixie brother), Jamie and Mike, Maggie Westaby, and Pat Stolen. We pray for all who are impacted or are suffering from COVID-19. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

The Lord's Prayer Sharing of Peace

Offering

Offertory **“Praise and Thanksgiving”** **#689**

Offertory Prayer

Blessing

Closing Hymn **“O Christ, Our Hope”** **#604**

Dismissal

Prayer Concerns: Thelma, Esther, Barb, Kathrine-Sylvia, Jezel, Joelle, Ibrahim and Odeh, Norm, 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. Address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Email for Pastor: nkalesto@gmail.com



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.

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.

News

For the Women of ILC and ELCA

Dear Friend in Christ, a unique letter-exchange project

1. Write a letter. Use the “Dear Friend in Christ” salutation. Please share your thoughts on these questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the global pandemic? What words of encouragement can you offer the person who receives your letter?

2. You can handwrite or type the letter. 3. You could include a drawing, a photo, or a recipe, anything that fits into an envelope. 4. Offer up a prayer for the recipient. 5. You may include your mailing address in the letter if you do not wish to remain anonymous. 6. Print and sign the:

[Dear Friend in Christ release form](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DFICpermfill.pdf) (<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DFICpermfill.pdf>),

or use [our online form](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/special-initiatives/dear-friend-christ/dear-friend-in-christ-release-form) (<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/special-initiatives/dear-friend-christ/dear-friend-in-christ-release-form>).

We cannot exchange letters without a release.

7. Mail your letter and signed release form to Dear Friend in Christ, Women of the ELCA, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631. **Deadline for mailing letters to the churchwide organization is October 15, 2020.**

When you write to Dear Friend in Christ, your letter will be swapped with a letter from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get their letter. The exchange is anonymous (unless you provide your contact information), so you can share as little or as much information about yourself as you like.

Wednesday, September 16, 2020. The first confirmation class will be held at 6pm on Zoom.

Godparent(s) Sunday School Program

Dear members of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you. Until we return to *regular* worship services, I will lead the Sunday school program instead of Judy Nickolai.

Due to coronavirus, the Sunday school will not be held in the church. Despite this challenge, I believe that our children deserve to receive Christian education to help them to grow in faith. There are different ways to provide Christian education without asking the kids to come to church.

I encourage you to participate in the Godparent (s) Sunday School Program. It is a program pairing Sunday School student with an adult(s) church member designed to build relationships, encourage fellowship, and foster mutual growth in faith through exchanging cards, speaking over the phone, FaceTime, Skype, etc.

Of course, parents should be involved with their child's faith, but it is also essential to have our congregation members engaged. It can help parents feel connected to the church community, strengthen relationships across generations, and, most importantly, help Sunday school students grow in their faith (and many times, the members as well!).

We have nine Sunday school students. I need nine persons or non-couples to be Godparent(s) to one student. I will pair Godparent(s) with a student randomly, and you will work together for two months. After two months, I will assign you another child.

If you feel you are called by God to be part of this ministry, please let me know as soon as you can.

Pastor Niveen

Lutheran World Relief Kits - due to the current situation, we will not be collecting items for the Personal Care and School kits for LWR. We will be collecting monetary donations that will be sent to LWR during the month of September. If you would like to donate, please send your donation to the church office. Checks should be payable to Immanuel and write in the memo LWR. We will send one check. If you have any questions, please contact Patti Busche or Vonnie Solomonson.

In-Person Worship Service today (Masks Required). In addition to in-person worship services, the following ILC services and ministries will continue to be online and Spectrum TV:

Our Facebook Page: @ILCWausau	Our YouTube Channel: Search "Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau Wisconsin, Inc."
Our Website: http://www.immanuelwausau.org (Click on Video Gallery)	Spectrum TV Cable Channel 980 at 11:00am on Sunday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran.)

Would you like to read for our video worship services? Please contact Jackie to set this up. Thank you!