

Immanuel News



December 2019

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office: Monday—Thursday 9am-3pm | Phone: (715) 842-3644
Email: info@immanuelwausau.org | Website: www.immanuelwausau.org

Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church on Facebook: [@ILCWausau](https://www.facebook.com/ILCWausau)

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11 NRSV).

Christ is born! Glorify him!

Have you ever asked yourself why we decorate our church, home and streets with green and red ornaments for Christmas? Why do we have a Christmas tree? Martin Luther was not the first person to decorate a Christmas tree. Have you ever asked yourself why we exchange gifts or have 25 days of celebration? Jesus was not born in December because the gospel of Luke tells us that shepherds were watching over their sheep when an angel appeared to them to announce the good news. Palestinian shepherds do not take their sheep to fields in the winter.

This kind of celebration goes back to the 2nd century A.D. when the Romans celebrated the feast of Saturnalia—god Saturn, who appeared among Romans and taught them agriculture. This feast was held December 17-24. Part of the celebration was lighting candles, exchanging gifts, and preparing public and private banquets. It was also a time of revelry and gambling. Many of the decorations involved greenery like garlands and wreaths hung over doorways and windows. Decorating stairs was also done. Ornaments in the trees included the symbols of sun and stars.

Saturnalia has influenced our tradition of celebrating Advent and Christmas. Keep in mind that the Saturnalia festival ends on December 24, and the celebration of the birthday of the Sun god, also called Unconquered Sun, started on December 25th. It seems that Christians combined the feast of Saturnalia with the birthday of the Unconquered Sun.

We cannot ignore the influence of Roman culture on our Christmas tradition. Early Christians were persecuted in different parts of the Roman Empire. Christians took advantage of the Romans who were busy celebrating the Saturnalia and the Unconquered Sun, to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. When the Emperor Constantine made Christianity the main religion of his empire and ended persecution, Christians continued to celebrate Christmas in December. We are not celebrating god Saturn or the birthday of the Unconquered Sun. We are celebrating the true God and true human, Jesus Christ. Our faith and theology are totally different than Roman mythology. We celebrate the incarnate God whose desire is to dwell among us and to embrace us.

Christ is born! Glorify him!

¹ History.com, "Saturnalia," in *History*, December 5, 2017, <https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-rome/saturnalia> (Access November 23, 2019).

¹ Ibid.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D

Church Schedule

Worship Service at 9:00 am each Sunday

and an additional service at 11:am on the 1st Sunday of each month.

***Pastor Niveen** is in her church office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 9am-3pm. She visits Homebound Parishioners on Wednesday. Friday is Sermon Day. Saturday is Pastor's Sabbath. Please email Pastor Niveen or call the church office to set up a time for a meeting.

***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 sheet that is in each pew when you are taking communion. This information is entered into the office computer.

TV Worship Services : Charter Cable Channel 980 5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15 am Thursday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran)

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. The address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Pastor Nkale's email address is nkalesto@gmail.com

Immanuel Fellowship Opportunities

Fellowship not only makes the journey enjoyable; it also helps keep us healthy.

Men's Discussion Group - Al Solomonson. The Men's Discussion Group meets on Thursday mornings at 7:30 A.M. in the Koinonia. The group watches a DVD and discusses a series of study titled "Thinking about Religion and Violence" by Professor Jason C. Bivins.

Dorcas Circle - Claudette Haring. Meets at 9am on the 4th Wednesday. If anyone is interested in an evening Bible Study, please let Claudette know. (715) 241-8351

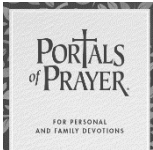
All Women of Immanuel - Vonnie Solomonson. You are always welcome to join our group.

Sarah Circle - Mary McDonell & Vonnie Solomonson. Meets at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Are you a quilter or would you like to learn? Join the ILC quilters each Thursday at 9:00am. They meet on the 2nd floor in the education wing. If you have questions, contact Kathy Knox. Stay tuned for Fall meeting information.

Ringling for Christ. We would love to have new members in the Bell Choir. Come play bells to praise the Lord! Bell Choir Practice is 5:30 pm every Tuesday. You may hear us play the last Sunday each month through May 19, 2020. If you have any questions, contact Joanne Diestelhorst at 715-573-7379.

Choir Judy Kort is our choir director. Please come sing with us. All are welcome! We sing, we laugh, we praise the Lord and enjoy each other's fellowship! **Music is an outburst of the soul.**



The devotional books *Portals of Prayer* and *Christ in Our Home* for January-March have arrived. They will be in the Narthex.

Stewardship Committee. Reminder: Please get "gifting cards" handed in if you haven't done so. Thank you.



Thank you, thank you, to those of you who handed in your 2020 "financial gift" form! A special thank you goes to the Stewardship Committee: Rick Lohr, Tom McDonell, Wayne Kallio, Ben Haring and Jim Stolen for all your work on the 2019 campaign.



Thank you to the Altar Guild for decorating our Church. It looks wonderful and festive!

Mark Your Calendars!

Wednesday, December 4, 2019: Wednesday Advent Service starts at the sanctuary at 1pm with Holy Communion by intinction. You are invited to come to the Gathering Room for cookies, coffee and conversation following this service. It will be sponsored by the ILCW. Come and relax and enjoy some delicious Christmas cookies. We anticipate that "take home" treats will be available.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019: Wednesday Advent Service starts at the chapel at 1pm with Holy Communion by intinction.

Sunday, December 17, 2019: Altar Guild Meeting at 10:15am in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday, December 18, 2019: Blue Christmas Service starts at the sanctuary at 1pm with Holy Communion by intinction.

Sunday, December 22, 2019: Christmas Songfest Service (Carols & Candles) and children program at 9:00am.

Monday, December 23, 2019: Executive Meeting at 5:30pm and Council Meeting at 6:05pm.

Tuesday, December 24, 2019: Christmas Eve Services at 4pm & 7pm with Holy Communion by intinction.

Wednesday, December 25, 2019: Christmas Day Service starts at 9am with Holy Communion by intinction.

Church Minor Repair Checklist. There is a new checklist posted by the church office. On it are a list of items that need fixin'. Feel free to add to it. If you are a handy person and could volunteer some time, feel free to take on one or a few of the tasks on the list. Thank you so much!

Olive Oil is Here! A new shipment of Canaan Fair Trade olive oil has arrived. 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!



We are collecting soap/lotion dispensers or small dishwashing liquid containers for the handmade dishwashing liquid we are making. Jackie will place a collection box in the Narthex for them. All dispensers should be clean and dry. Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1949 construction was started on the new Immanuel Lutheran church building, replacing the one on the current site of the Eye Clinic of Wisconsin. Worship services were conducted for the first time in 1950, with Pastor Rasmussen in charge. This year marks the 70th anniversary of that building. Members today who were also members 70 years ago are: Faye Schwarm, JoAnne Cerny. Clarence "Ole" Johnson and Bob Doede, who was in his early infancy. The Immanuel congregation was founded in 1883. Ole Johnson's great grandfather was one of the original members. Six generations later Ole and Sally's grandchildren were confirmed at Immanuel, marking 136 years of family membership in our congregation in 2019. That is amazing!

NAOMI Member Updates—December 17, 2019 from 6:30pm-8pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Get brief updates on all NAOMI's work, plus a 'deeper dive' learning and input opportunity on one focus area each

meeting. Follow NAOMI on Facebook.

Intinction is the action of dipping the bread in the wine at a Eucharist so that a communicant receives both together. We will begin the practice of Intinction at ILC in January.

Birthdays

The following individuals are celebrating their birthday this month.

A handwritten note in black ink that says "Happy Birthday!" with a small underline under the word "Birthday".

December 2019

Lisa Steltenpohl	12/03	Carol Hettinga	12/21
Lisa Scobell	12/04	Niveen Sarras	12/21
Bruce Knox	12/07	Jane Reilly-Smith	12/23
Carol Hazen	12/08	Ken Strasser	12/24
John Burk Sr	12/11	Mike Dellenbach	12/27
Mel Sandquist	12/11	Linda Swenson	12/27
Charlotte Traeger	12/12	Joyce Lohr	12/30
Glenn Rusch	12/13	Mary McDonell	12/31
Holly Westaby	12/15		
Rebecca Case	12/18		
Doug Helling	12/19		

A handwritten note in black ink that says "Happy Anniversary" in a cursive script.

Anniversary Wishes to these Special Couples

The following couples are celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

12/13	Scott & Andrea Schafer	11 years
12/17	Ronald & Joanne Beckman	53 years

Caring Corner

Psalm 71:9 "Do not cast me off in the time of old"

☞ 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. ☎

Facility		Home
<p>Bell Tower Residence 1500 O'Day St Merrill, WI 54452</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Barb Peterson, Rm 313 ▶ Carol Hettinga, Rm 307 <p>Our House Assisted Living 220 West Campus Drive Wausau, WI 54401</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Joan Lind, Rm 7 <p>Riverview Terrace 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Joyce Lohrey, #207 <p>Colonial Manor 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Norm Winterhoff 	<p>Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Thelma Bursik, Apt #101 ▶ Charlotte Traeger, Apt #215 ▶ Judy Blanchfield, Apt #132 ▶ Faye Schwarm, Apt #133 <p>Heritage House of Portage 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Esther Osterby, #43 	<p>Carolyn Viergutz N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022</p> <p>Pat Stricker 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403</p> <p>Jeanette Petterson 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474</p> <p>Dale & Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401</p>



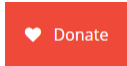
Merry Christmas



Shop ELCA Good Gifts this Christmas for 50 gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. Have you ever selected a gift for someone in need from a display in a store or shopping mall? Now you can do the same thing here to support ELCA Good Gifts. Be sure to visit our Gift Tree in the gathering area or at the sanctuary.

Mitten Tree: The Mitten Tree is set up in the Narthex. It will be there 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.



 **Online Giving now available!** Immanuel Lutheran Church has arranged with Vanco Services to process online donations. GivePlus is the easy and secure way for our congregation to give how and when you would like to. To access this new option, visit our website at: <http://www.immanuelwausau.org/online-giving>. Click on the Donate Button. You may also download the GivePlus Mobile App. Thank you for your generous support!



Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a nonprofit organization that works to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for all people of the Middle East. It is a coalition of 27 national church communions and organizations in Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Evangelical traditions. Each of these communions and organizations is represented on the CMEP Board of Directors, which sets CMEP's mission, positions, and policy.

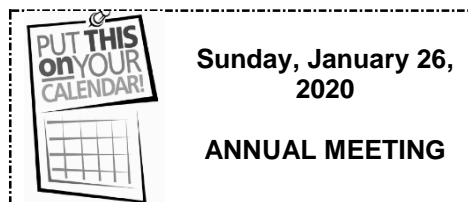
CMEP helps church organizations, leaders and individuals nationwide to advocate in a knowledgeable, timely, holistic, and effective way to express their concerns about justice and peace for all peoples in the region. CMEP activists, board, and staff engage directly with policy makers at every level.

The ELCA is represented on the board of directors. The church council has suggested that Immanuel Lutheran Church be a part of this organization. The annual fee is \$250, and they have suggested that the fee be raised through coffee hour donations and by contributions from other interested persons.

Claudette Harring is a CMEP Regional Coordinator for this area of Wisconsin.

YEAR END GIVING DEADLINE

Members contributions for the 2019 Tax Year must be submitted by
Sunday, December 29, 2019.



News & Events Outside of ILC

- **From Zion Lutheran Church:** You and your congregation are invited to Zion's 29th annual Christmas Cookie Sale being held on Saturday, December 7th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per pound. Pre-packaged cookies are also available.
 - **Friday, December 13, 2019:** The Wausau Lyric Choir will perform its 2019 Christmas Concert – **Musica est Angeli: Celebrating the Nativity** – at First Presbyterian Church (406 Grant Street, downtown Wausau) on Friday, December 13, 2019 at 7:30pm and Saturday, December 14th at 3:00pm. There is no charge to attend the concert and no tickets are needed. Free-will donations will be accepted.
 - **Saturday, December 21, 2019:** Bethlehem Christmas Simulcast Service. Join with congregations at Washington National Cathedral and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem for this 12th annual Simulcast Christmas Service celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace. Join audiences from across the globe online at: youtube.com/wncathedral. 8:30am CST.
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Greater Wausau Christian Services – July to September 2019 Newsletter

As the third quarter has come and gone, the season for giving is upon us.

Our second quarter newsletter talked about our newly established Fruit Tree Orchard on the corner of Thomas Street and Grand Avenue. To date, this garden has been very successful in giving back to the community through the donation of fruit and vegetables to local food pantries. We hope you have been able to see the beauty of this garden while driving down Grand Avenue.

A special thanks to Christopher Wilke for his leadership in making this dream a reality. Our organization had the honor of presenting Mr. Wilke with an outstanding community service award on September 17, 2019. The award was given for his significant work in the City of Wausau and local communities, establishing Support Programs' service projects. These projects specifically help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter our communities, resulting in a reduction of the recidivism rate. It was an honor to be able to work with Mr. Wilke on this project and

Greater Wausau Christian Services is very excited to continue to 'plant the seeds' for more gardens in the Wausau area!

To learn more, please visit our Facebook page and if you, or someone you know, would like to make a donation toward the growth of new gardens in the future, please let us know!

GWCS, 319 4th St, Wausau, WI 54403 | Phone: 715-842-5635 | gwcs@mail.com. Entrance is located off 5th Street next to the Open Door. On the web: Visit www.gwcservices.org or 'like' us on Facebook at Greater Wausau Christian

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
2019 Income vs Expenses**

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Spec Funds Income	Total Deposit
January	\$10,357	\$14,651	(\$4,294)	\$2,094	\$12,451
February	\$10,253	\$12,308	(\$2,055)	\$1441.56	\$11,695
March	\$15,304	\$15,018	\$286	\$774.00	\$16,078
April	\$17,384	\$13,164	\$4,221	\$1,229.01	\$18,613
May	\$9,368	\$12,563	(\$3,195)	\$1,645.09	\$11,013
June	\$12,492	\$12,761	(\$268)	\$1,947.00	\$14,439.25
July	\$12,747	\$12,513	\$234	\$816.20	\$13,563.2
August	\$10,058	\$11,804	(\$1,746)	\$476.71	\$10,534.71
September	\$16,728	\$10,921	\$5,807	\$552.06	\$17,280.28
October	\$9,644	\$14,177	(\$4,533)	\$442.47	\$10,086.57
November			\$0		
December			\$0		
Totals	\$124,335.83	129,874.71	(\$5,539)	\$11,418	\$135,754

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - Thursday October 24, 2019

Members present: Vice-president Linda Hulstrom, treasurer Matt Munson, secretary Mike Steltenpohl, Pastor Niveen Sarras, education Judy Nickolai, evangelism Janci Treutel, properties Jerry Nickolai, worship Judy Kort.

Members absent: Bob Henning, Patti Busche, Rick Lohr

1. Devotions were led by Linda Hulstrom at 6:15pm
2. The meeting was called to order by Linda Hulstrom at 6:18pm.
3. Pastor's report
 - a. There will be a skit on Sunday at 10:45am during coffee hour titled: "Katharina von Bora and Martin Luther - The Origin of Potluck".

b. Pastor met with the altar guild to discuss options for communion that would reduce the burden of cleanup on members handling this task. See worship committee results below regarding the current plan.

3. Church officer reports

a. Secretary report - The September secretary report was previously e-mailed to all council members and a motion was made by Judy K to accept the minutes as printed. Second was made by Matt. Motion passed.

b. Treasurer report - The Income & Expense report and the Current Position and

Designated Funds report for September was presented. The September and YTD Profit &

Loss Budget Performance was also presented. A motion was made by Jerry to accept

and hold the treasurers report for audit. Second was made by Mike. Motion passed.

c. Financial secretary report - No report.

d. Vice-President report - Linda will be conducting staff / employee review meetings and discussion was had regarding various options for the church to show our appreciation for their efforts. Linda also suggested providing a brief class for the youth on the basics of reading music to better enable them to join in on the singing in church.

e. President report - No report.

4. Committee reports

a. Education - Rally Sunday was held for the Sunday School and 4 children attended.

b. Evangelism - The soap and suds event was successful and over 30 bars of soap and the liquid soap were made. Thanks to Jackie and Pastor for their efforts.

c. Properties - The heating system review was completed and the heating system has been started. One circulation motor needs to be replaced and it is purchased but some retrofit is required. The air filters for inside and exterior air handlers need to be purchased and replaced. Carper cleaning quotes for the fellowship hall are being requested. There is a list of properties concerns near the office entry, and any new items noted can be added to the list. A question was asked about an automatic door opener for mobility challenged individuals, but this has not yet been researched.

d. Social Concerns - Linda attended the meeting at First Presbyterian Church to discuss the 2020 schedule for community dinners. ILC will have 4 times to prepare and serve the community dinners.

- e. Stewardship - No report.
- f. Youth - No report.
- g. Worship - Judy reported that the plan is to have communion for the 1st Sunday of the month at the rail and then the 3rd Sunday of the month will be intinction. The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held here at ILC to include St. Stephens, St. Michaels and the Church of the Resurrection. There will be a Carols and Candles service here on Sunday December 22nd.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. No report yet from the audit committee.

6. New Business

- a. Mitten tree - Janci will set up the tree and Jackie will make signs.
- b. The November meeting will be Monday November 25th - 5:30pm executive committee and 6:05pm council meeting.
- c. Tentative date for initial budget planning meeting will be Sunday December 15th at



10:30am.

7. A motion was made by Judy K to adjourn the meeting. Second was made by Janci.

Motion

passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

9. Closing devotion was held by members holding hands in a circle while saying the Lord's Prayer.

<p>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4</p>  <p>Glen D. Viergutz 2/24/34 – 11/11/19</p>	 <p>Immanuel Lutheran Church extends their sympathy and prayers to the family (Sue-Sister & Mike Schwede) of Sally A. Gorski who died November 21, 2019.</p>
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May your heart and home be filled with Peace and Joy this



Christmas Season
From the Staff at Immanuel

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630 Adams St
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Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church
Facebook: **@ILC Wausau**

Worship Services:
Sunday—9:00am
1st Sunday of the Month—9:00am & 11am
Fellowship Hour:
Sunday—10:15am
TV Worship Services:
Charter Cable Channel 980
5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15am Thursday