

Immanuel News



February 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. All the members of the body are equally important to form one body (1 Corinthians 12:12)."

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. All the members of the body are equally important to form one body (1 Corinthians 12:12)."

God gives each one of you a spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are essential for the ministry of God. Is there a spiritual gift that has more value or status than another? The apostle Paul writes to Christians in Corinth, in south-central Greece, who competed with one another as to whose spiritual gift was more important than the other. To end the competition, the apostle Paul introduces the messianic politics of the body.* According to Greco-Roman culture, superior knowledge and classism defined a person. Orators in antiquity treated eloquent speech as the expression of wisdom and superiority. Paul recognizes the debilitating influence of this

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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.

Pastor's Hours

Pastor Niveen is in her church office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 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. If you have questions, please contact Marge Warner.

† **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.



Address: 630 Adams Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Phone: (715) 842-3644

Website: WWW.IMMANUELWAUSAU.ORG

Office Hours: 9am-3pm Mon.-Thurs. Closed Friday.

thinking on the Church. In his letter, Paul challenges their wisdom by teaching that the true wisdom comes through the weakness and vulnerability of a crucified Messiah.

Paul uses the political language of the body to explain the unity and diversity of the body of Christ. In contrast with Paul's teaching, "Greco-Roman authors and orators appealed to the political significance of the body in order to emphasize the predominance of the head so as to re-inscribe the hierarchical order of imperial society."* In 1 Corinthians 12:14, Paul states that "the body does not consist of one member but of many." Paul's statement criticizes Caesar, who is considered the head of the Roman empire and controls all his subjects. Paul is protesting the hegemonic body politics of Rome that coerces the weaker of society to serve the stronger. He teaches that the body of the crucified Christ tore down classism and superiority and started an egalitarian body.

God gives each member of the body a special gift for the well-being of the whole body (1 Corinthians 12:7), not for competition. What is interesting is the alternative translation of the term "community or body" in Latin. "The munus of the Latin word *communus* means 'duty' or 'obligation' as well as 'gift',** which signifies "that members of a community are bound by a "gift" that is to be given or shared rather than received."*

Paul teaches that the spiritual gifts are intended to be used for the benefit of all the members of the body of Christ and should not lead to competition. Any individual with any gift whether spiritual or non-spiritual is called to renounce one's self-interest for the sake of the body of Christ. Paul is calling the Corinthians and us to use our gifts in the service of all members of the church. To be part of the body of Christ means to sacrifice on the altar your individual self-preservation.**

The division and hierarchy in the church of Corinth are found in many churches today. Many church leaders are striving for a leadership role for their own interest. The only interest in having a leadership role is to serve Jesus Christ, not oneself. To be a leader means to serve with a spirit of humility. Any church or organization will fail if its leaders use their position and gifts for their own interest or they do not take their gifts and leadership roles seriously. Many parishioners leave the church because the leaders of the church concentrate on their own prestige and egos. It is dangerous for the mission of a church if its leaders are self-centered and unwilling to delegate tasks. As you are serving the Lord Jesus Christ in his church, I invite you to focus on serving Jesus Christ without self-centeredness or self-interest. Serve Christ from a heart of love for your neighbors. Your gifts are special blessings you receive from God for the good of your neighbor. Sharing, not holding onto your gifts, helps in advancing the kingdom of God.

What kind of gifts have you received from God that you can share to build the body of Christ? Reflect on your gifts. Ask God to reveal to you your spiritual gift. You are welcome to discuss with me your gift. May the Lord Jesus Christ help you to discern your gifts.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

* Ray Pickett, "The Politics of the Messianic Body—1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a," Political Theology Network (January 19, 2016), <https://politicaltheology.com/the-politics-of-the-messianic-body-1-corinthians-1212-31a/>.

** Roberto Esposito, *Terms of the Political: Community, Immunity, Biopolitics* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2013), 16. Why are we afraid to admit our pain and suffering? Why does it become socially acceptable to hide our emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual distress? There are many reasons that we may disguise our emotional pain, but in doing so, we deepen our pain.

Mark Your Calendars for Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019. Communion Services will be at 1:00pm and 6:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Our Lenten services will be at 1:00pm in the Chapel and 6:00pm in the Church and on the following dates:
March 13, 2019, March 20, 2019, March 27, 2019, April 3, 2019 and April 10, 2019.



April 14, 2019: 9:00am Palm Sunday
April 18, 2019: 6:00pm Maundy Thursday
April 19, 2019: 1:30pm Good Friday
April 20, 2019: 6:00pm Easter Vigil
April 21, 2019: 9:00am Easter

An Introduction to Feminist Theology. Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Instructor. When: February 4th - February 18th, Monday, and Thursday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Where: Academic Building 193. Description: God is described in masculine language in Scripture and Christian literature. The image of God as male is dominant not only in our theology but also in our daily conversation. We always refer to God as male. The Bible is a product of a patriarchal society where women's voices are diminished. Theologians have continued to ignore women's experiences and contributions to biblical theology. The second part of the class offers an introduction to feminist theology by emphasizing the role of gender and sexuality within this theology. Learn the reason behind Christian feminists developing a theology with a purpose to reinterpret the scriptures and church traditions in the context of patriarchal culture.

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 on Thursday mornings at 7:30 A.M. in the Koinonia. We socialize a bit with coffee and donuts after which we watch a short video pertinent to Christian history or issues. We then discuss the issues presented in the video. This year the topic will be "Great Figures in the New Testament." The session usually ends at 8:30 or a little after. We typically have seven in attendance. Two are non-members. We welcome additions to our group.

Dorcas Circle - Claudette Haring

You are always welcome to join our group. Please email Jackie at info@immanuelwausau.org for more information.

All Women of Immanuel - Vonnie Solomonson

You are always welcome to join our group. Please email Jackie at info@immanuelwausau.org for more information.

Are you a quilter or would like to learn? Join the ILC quilters each Thursday at 9:00am until May 16th. They meet on the 2nd floor – education wing. If you have questions, contact Kathy Knox. See below.

Immanuel Quilters started assembling, tying and sewing quilts and will continue Thursday mornings till mid-May. These quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to refugees and others in need throughout the world. Tops for the quilts are made from fabric remnants and the quilt backs are gently used sheets or similar fabric. Fiber fill is purchased for the middle layer. Assembling the quilts is done in the workroom on the second floor of the education wing. Some quilters work at home cutting and sewing together squares for the quilt tops. Donation of supplies are welcome. In addition to fabric or sheets (all sizes), yarn for tying, sewing thread and sewing machine needles are also needed. Donations of money are used to purchase the quilt filler.

The Quilters welcome new members. Join us Thursday mornings for fellowship and helping with this LWR project. We meet from about 9 am—11:30 am and always have time for a coffee break.



Happy Birthday

**Anniversary Wishes
to the Special Couples**

The following couples are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary

February

- 02/02 Brittney Riehle
- 02/04 Brandon Lenz
- 02/05 Art Dellenbach
- 02/07 Lizzy Wanta
- 02/08 Thalia Bickford
- 02/10 Annabelle Kurth
- 02/12 Caleb Lenselink
- 02/12 Diane Lenz
- 02/13 Scott Wipfli
- 02/14 Wayne Kallio
- 02/14 Brandon Wierzba
- 02/16 Jim Stolen
- 02/18 Franklin Lewitzke
- 02/21 Serenity Hulstrom
- 02/22 Kristen Hulstrom
- 02/23 Erika Hack
- 02/24 Bill Cerny
- 02/24 Glen Viergutz
- 02/25 Nancy Helling
- 02/25 Carolyn Viergutz
- 02/28 Kara Sanders

February

2/13 Norm & Joan Winterhoff 54 years



RINGING FOR CHRIST

Immanuel Bell Choir practice is Tuesdays at 5:30pm-6:30pm.
We would love to have new members.

You may hear us play the last Sunday each month. Mark your
calendars!

We invite anyone interested to come and check us out on Tuesday
evenings 5:30 - 6:30.

Any questions contact Joanne Diestelhorst at 715-573-7379



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES

The Summer 2019 Program Guide is now available in the office for quality, faith-empowered discovery for youth and families. The mission of Crossways Camping Ministries is: Bringing people together in Christ so lives are changed, and communities enhanced. For more information about programs, dates, pricing and discounts, visit online crosswaycamps.org/summer.

Are high energy costs getting you down? The Home Energy Plus program may help! To schedule an appointment call Marathon County Energy Assistance Program at (715) 842-3111. You may qualify for home energy assistance. If you know someone who could benefit from this program, please pass on this information.

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)*

Your 2018 Year End Tax
Statements have been
mailed. Please call the office
if you have not received your
statement.

**“Souper Bowl” of Caring Food Drive
Challenge** - Watch for more details. Pick up
an extra food item when you go shopping.
We will be challenging other churches and
all proceeds will go to the Neighbor’s Place.

Organ Fund: Work is complete on the organ. Any contribution toward the organ fund would be most welcome. Your check can be made out to Immanuel. Be sure to list on your check that your donation is toward the organ fund.

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

Bell Tower Residence

1500 O’Day St
Merrill, WI 54452

▶ **Barb Peterson**, Rm 209

Our House Assisted Living

220 West Campus Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

▶ **Joan Lind**, Rm 7

Riverview Terrace

540 E. Thomas St.
Wausau, WI 54401

▶ **Joyce Lohrey**, #207

Colonial Manor

1010 E. Wausau Ave
Wausau, WI 54403

▶ **Norm Winterhoff**

Primrose Retirement Community

2100 Townline Rd
Wausau, WI 54403

▶ **Thelma Bursik**, Apt #101

Primrose Memory Care

7704 Franciscan Way
Weston, WI 54467

▶ **Carol Hettinga**, Rm 8

Home

Glen & Carolyn Viergutz

N114 W17117 Cove Ct
Germantown, WI 53022

Pat Stricker

1403 Stark Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Judy Blanchfield

1805 Mathie Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Dale & Ann Kurth

2806 Polzer Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

AARP Foundation FREE 2018 Income Tax Preparation for Low-to-moderate income taxpayers. Emphasis on age 60+

Appointments Required—call 715-298-5734; January 17-April 5, 2018; Weekdays 9am-1pm to Schedule

UW Extension, 212 River Dr., Wausau: Tues. & Wed. 7:45am—12:15pm; Feb. 5-April 11

Merrill Enrichment Center, 303 N Sales St, Merrill: Thurs. Feb. 14 & Thurs. March 14; 9am-2pm

Mosinee Methodist Church, Community Room, 607 13th St, Mosinee, Thurs. March 21;

10:30am-1:30pm

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED. NO WALK-INS ALLOWED

The following locations accept walk-ins:

Kannenber Plaza, 1240 Merrill Ave., Wausau Thurs. Feb 21 8am-noon

Riverview Towers, 500 Grand Ave., Wausau Thurs. Feb 28 Noon-3pm

Israel/Palestine: Community Dialogues: Event 3 – Book Discussion. Monday, February 25, 2019. Read one (or more) of the books to be discussed. Blood Brothers - Elias Chacour, Mornings in Jenin - Susan Abulhowa, My Promised Land - Ari Shavit and Occupied with Non Violence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks - Jean Zaru. Cost: \$5 at the door

COUNCIL MINUTES – December 2018

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting - Dec 16, 2018

Present: President Bob Henning, V. President Jamie Rice-Heckendorf, Treasurer Matt Munson, Secretary Linda Hulstrom, Financial Secretary Patti Busche, Evangelism Judi McGill, Social Concerns Marge Warner, Worship Judy Kort, and Pastor Niveen. Absent: Education Judy Nickolai

1. Devotions by Pastor Niveen.
2. Call the meeting to order by Bob Henning at 2:12 pm.
3. Church officer reports:
 - a. Secretary
November Minutes were presented, and Motion made to Accept Minutes by Patti, 2nd by Judi M, Motion approved.
 - b. Treasurer. Matt provided Council with copy of 2018 approved Operating Budget Expense report, with current updates noted. He also presented the Current Position and Designated Funds report. Motion was made by Jamie to accept and hold Treasurer's report for audit, 2nd by Marge, Motion passed.
 - c. Financial Secretary. Patti reviewed November report. Motion was made by Judi M to accept the November report and hold for audit, 2nd by Marge. Motion passed.
 - d. Vice President; Jamie reports Rick Lohr will take the Stewardship Chair position. The Youth Chairman position is still available. Also, she will be posting for a Part-time Janitor.
 - e. President; noted he has 2 people for the Audit Committee, Mary McDonell and Maria Wierzba, so we only need 1 more.
4. All Committee Reports will be placed on hold till the Jan. 2019 meeting.
5. Pastor: invites everyone to come to the Blue Christmas service on Wednesday night.
6. Old Business:
 - a. 2019 Budget. Jamie suggests that we table the Budget till we meet in January 8th.
 - b. January 19 is our Blood Drive at Church 8:00 am - noon.
7. New Business:
 - a. Crossways Camping Ministries presentation.
8. Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Prayerfully submitted by Linda Hulstrom, Council Secretary

** Minutes approved at Council Meeting 1-8-2019 Motion by Patti, 2nd by Matt, Motion passed.*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
2018 Income vs Expenses**

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference
January	\$13,488	\$6,375		\$7,113
February	\$12,787	\$18,836		(\$6,049)
March	\$20,340	\$19,240		\$1,100
April	\$19,409	\$12,680		\$6,729
May	\$17,879	\$14,396		\$3,483
June	\$13,955	\$4,244		\$9,711
July	\$13,701	\$18,598		(\$4,897)
August	\$12,784	\$14,540		(\$1,756)
September	\$15,319	\$10,516		\$4,803
October	\$10,528	\$16,187		(\$5,659)
November	\$13,722	\$11,882		\$1,840
December	\$18,821	\$13,391		\$5,430
Totals	\$182,733.48	\$160,884.69	\$21,849	Total difference

Mark Your Calendars: Lamb of God Wausau - April 7 & 8, 2019 at 7pm. FREE Admission (but you must order your free tickets online). Lamb of God Wausau is a Multi-Faith Easter concert celebrating Christ. All the information is here: <http://lambogodwausau.com/>.

Hamilton Lot Loan Report:

The loan refinance documents were signed on 12/31/2018 with Intercity State Bank. The new loan was for \$15,548.64 at 5.25% interest (the best of 4 lenders, including BMO Harris where loan previously was). \$125.24 will be automatically drafted on the last day of each month. We did pay down \$9,000 from the proceeds of the Adams Street Lot Sale. Also, \$5000. was applied from the Max Anderson Memorial donation. In January, we are using available parking lot remaining Funds to make an additional principal payment of \$895. Council decided, each month any amount in our Hamilton parking lot Fund above \$400. will be used to pay principal. There is no prepayment penalty and it is our intention to have this loan paid in full within 3 years. Please continue to make separate donations to the Parking Lot Fund, as it is a benefit to us all.

Respectfully,

Linda Hulstrom

Worship Servants: With Lenten Season fast approaching, could you please provide me with your availability for worship servants' positions during the Lent services? Call (715) 842-3644 or email info@immanuelwausau.org. Thank you. -- Jackie

EPIC Registration is live!



Please take part in the 3rd Annual Equipping People in Congregations (EPIC) event. EPIC is a workshop for all congregational Leaders, Members, Youth, and Pastors. This year our keynote speaker and workshop presenter will be Pastor Michael Binder. Pastor Binder's keynote address is titled *"Riding Backwards Bicycles - Learning to be Church in the 21st Century."* We are excited to have Pastor Binder and a host of other workshop presenters, presenting on topics ranging from social media to youth engagement.

When: March 9th, 2019 8:30AM | **Where:** Zion Lutheran Church, 1254 S. Union St., Shawano, WI 54166 | **Cost:** \$25 Registration fee



► Sign up to receive...

ELCA Hunger Information

<http://www.elca.org/hunger>

ELCA Advocacy Alerts

<http://www.elca.org/advocacy>

LOPPW – Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin

<http://www.loppw.org/about-us/current-priorities/>

Senior Home Safety Program.

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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
630 Adams St
Wausau, WI 54403

IMMANUEL News - February 2019

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
Email: pastor@immanuelwausau.org | (715) 842-3644

Administrative Assistant: Jackie Loos
Email: info@immanuelwausau.org

Bookkeeper: Matthew Munson
Email: treasurer@immanuelwausau.org

Organists: Judy Kort & Adele Bluhm
Pianist: Marino Taylor
Handbell Choir Director: Joanne Diestelhorst
Choir Director: Kay Pope
Custodians: Paul Smith and Jill Preston
Sunday School: Judy Nickolai

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Property: Jerry Nickolai
Education: Judy Nickolai
Evangelism: Judi McGill
Worship: Judy Kort
Youth: Vacant
Stewardship: Rick Lohr
Social Concerns: Marge Warner

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Bob Henning
Vice President: Jamie Rice-Heckendorf
Treasurer: Matthew Munson
Financial Secretary: Patti Busche
Secretary: Linda Hulstrom

Scheduled Meetings

2/19/19	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
2/19/19	6:35pm	Council Meeting

Our Sister Church

Lobatla Parish,
c/o Rev. G.M. Nkale
P.O. Box 160, Motswedi, 2870
Republic of South Africa