

Immanuel News



July—August 2019

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

"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground" (Genesis 1:28).

What is your definition of stewardship? Think of my question before you continue to read my article. The general meaning of stewardship is caring, administration and supervision. The biblical understanding of stewardship carries a more profound meaning. Christians have a misconception of stewardship. If I tell you I want to preach on stewardship, you may assume that I will talk about the church budget or financing a particular ministry. In other words, you may think you are being asked to increase your contribution to the church. Associating stewardship with a church budget is a small aspect of biblical stewardship.

"The Greek word for stewardship, *oikonomia*, is a compound of two words: *oikos*, household, and *nomos*, which means law or rule. In ancient culture, the words used together meant the administration or management of a household."¹ The word economy derives from the Greek word *oikonomia*. In New Testament times, a slave acted as a steward in his master's house. His master entrusted him to manage the family and affairs. The master expected the slave to use the authority given to him to advance the interest of his master, not for his own self-interest.² To put it differently, the master owns the resources and the slave is entrusted with the resources. A slave was accountable to his master. So, a steward is someone who handles affairs for someone else. Thus God, as the master of the universe, owns all resources and distributes them according to

(Continued from page 1)

God's will. As the Psalmist says, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1 NIV).

We are stewards, accountable to God for everything we have. As stewards, we are responsible for advancing the interest of God, not to focus on our self-interest. God owns our planet and we are stewards, accountable to God to take care of the earth, not abuse it or use it for our self-interest. For example, we make a choice to buy household cleaning products or lawn care products, thinking that our decision impacts only us. In fact, our decisions affect creation. When we use chemical products to clean our house, the chemicals get into our water. As a result, contaminated water harms people and pets, as well as wildlife. We violate God's commandment to take care of animals. "The righteous care for the needs of their animals" (Proverbs 12:10 NIV).

The same principle applies to our garden. Chemical fertilizers, herbicides and other pesticides are harmful to us and the planet. God created us to be faithful stewards (Genesis 1:28). Using chemical products that are a hazard to my neighbor or the wildlife indicates that we put ourselves in place of God and claim our ownership of the earth that is not ours.

I encourage you to start with your household. Avoid chemical products. Try to see the planet as a person who gets sick from the chemicals. Let us begin at our church, too. As followers of Christ, we are called to live out our faith. I strongly encourage each of us to stop using and buying cleaning products that contain harmful ingredients such as ammonia and bleach. Let us replace our garbage bags with compostable ones. You may say that eco-friendly products are expensive. Here is where faith is essential. We have a faithful God to rely upon, to give us confidence that all will turn out according to God's will. God will provide what we need to help us to be honest stewards.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

¹ William Carr Peel, *What God Does When Men Lead: The Power and Potential of Regular Guys* (Carol Stream, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2009), chapter two.

² Ibid.

Pastor's Hours

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. 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.



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

July 7, 2019 & August 4, 2019: A 2nd Worship service is on these Sundays in the chapel at 11am. The Pastor would like volunteers for reader. For those attending the 2nd Worship service at 11am, you are welcome to stop downstairs for coffee hour at 10:15am before service.

✓ **Vacation Bible School:** The 2019 Ecumenical Vacation Bible School theme is "Who is My Neighbor?" This curriculum invites children and youth to re-imagine what it means to be neighbors in Christ. Based on the Good Samaritan story, this full program contains skits, games, crafts, snacks and intentional activities for children to enjoy and learn how our faith calls us out into the world to love and serve our neighbors. The sponsoring churches are: First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and the hosting Church: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau.



We will need volunteers for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be August 13-15, 2019 with a 5pm meal and VBS 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Forms will be available in the Narthex for VBS.

Since 2012, Marino Taylor, 21, has filled the sanctuary and chapel of Immanuel Lutheran Church with the music of the Gospel through his talents and abilities playing the piano. He coordinated musical selections with the Pastor and for leading the musical portions of the service. He blessed us by also playing during special services such as baptisms, funerals and outdoor services. Not only that, Marino was the Choir Accompanist.



Marino says, “Worship and church have always been a meaningful part of my life and I have grown to love many of the hymns and spiritual music found in the Lutheran book of worship.”

But the pianist will be missing from future Sunday services when he leaves us to attend the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison. Marino tells us that when he visits home, he will play for us from time to time. Marino is an outstanding individual and musician. He will be missed at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

He will be blessed by Pastor Niveen and the congregation on July 21st, 2019. On this date, Pastor Niveen will host the coffee hour in honor of her deceased Sister, Suha, and the free will offering from that coffee hour will go to Marino’s education.

FAITH IN ACTION OF MARATHON COUNTY

Faith in Action of Marathon County, Inc. (FIAMC) is a non-profit organization that provides supportive services, at **NO CHARGE**, to Marathon County seniors (60 and over), regardless of income, religious belief or ethnic background. Services are provided by trained volunteers to help seniors improve their quality of life and remain independent in their homes for as long as safely possible. **Services Provided to FIAMC Care-Receivers:** Transportation to Medical Appointments, Food Delivery from “The Neighbor’s Place”, Grocery Shopping, Friendly Visiting (via phone or in-person), Senior Home Safety Program (installation of Grab Bars, Railings, Toilet Risers, and Step Modifications). Volunteers needed! **Contact Information: Phone: 715.848.8783 | Email: WausauFialInfo@gmail.com | Website: FaithinActionMarathonCounty.org**

*TV Worship Services : Charter Cable Channel 980
5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15 am Thursday or online: Wausau Area Access Media:
waam.viebit.com*

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

Facility

Bell Tower Residence

1500 O'Day St
Merrill, WI 54452

▶ **Barb Peterson**, Rm 313

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

Bell Tower Residence

1500 O'Day St
Merrill, WI 54452

▶ **Carol Hettinga**, Rm 307

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

The devotional books Portals of Prayer and Christ in our Home for July—September 2019 have arrived. They will be in the Narthex.

July—August 2019 Birthdays

July 2019

Tom Lenz	07/01
Grace Berg	07/07
Cody Tessmer	07/07
Deb Dellenbach	07/08
Susan Hack	07/08
Riley Bickford	07/09
Ronald Beckman	07/10
Kyle Gilles	07/13
Joanne Beckman	07/15
Kathy Groethe	07/16
Dale Howard	07/16
Katie Kurth	07/20
Mary Meyer	07/21
Kira Spoehr	07/21
Ben Harring	07/24
Paul Reinertson	07/26
Amanda Criezis	07/29
Paige Sedlar	07/30



August 2019 (Continued)

Stephen Feck	08/05
Judith Blanchfield	08/08
Tom McDonell	08/08
Don Smail	08/12
Pat Stricker	08/12
Mary Munson	08/15
George Klinker	08/16
Pat Stolen	08/16
Janet Rohde	08/17
Pattie Bricko	08/19
Meredith Westaby	08/19
Baylen Hulstrom	08/20
Brett Riehle	08/21
Erin Doede	08/23
Kasen Hulstrom	08/23
Erin Lauersdorf	08/23
Andrea Schafer	08/23
Ted Sanders	08/24
Mitch Scobell	08/24
Maria O'Keefe	08/26
Greg Framke	08/27
Bob Henning	08/27
Kristine Johnson	08/27
Annie Hack	08/28
Mary Anne Klinker	08/30
Al Solomonson	08/31

August 2019

Al Spoehr	08/01
Dan Westaby	08/02
Joan Lind	08/03
Joseph Schwede	08/03
Brady Lenz	08/04
Marino Taylor	08/04
Jack Fabry	08/05

July

13	Jason & Erica Taylor	23 years
19	Brandon & Erin Lauersdorf	5 years
	Michael & Susan Schwede	44 years
23	James & Marilyn DeRubis	53 years
24	Al & Karen Spoehr	26 years
30	Dale & Annabella Kurth	59 years



August

2	Greg & Nikki Framke	11 years
	Rick & Joyce Lohr	55 years
4	Vern & Joanne Diestelhorst	46 years
8	Don & Dwala Smail	55 years
9	Ben & Claudette Haring	55 years
12	Jim & Debbie Palmer	47 years
	Don & Bonnie Dern	52 years
16	Jeff & Julie Kurth	22 years
18	George & Mary Anne Klinker	63 years
20	Al & Vonnie Solomonson	58 years
27	Clarence & Sally Johnson	59 years
28	Dan & Holly Westaby	37 years

The annual church picnic will be Sunday, August 18th in the courtyard.

We will have worship service will begin at 10:00 am in the sanctuary; picnic to follow. Brats, burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and your place settings. Chairs are available, but feel free to bring your own lawn chairs.



MENTAL STUBBORNESS

This mental stubbornness—how strange it seems
To me that people cannot see how queer
It is. They should be on the best of teams,
Attempting to abolish all the fear

That stems from prejudice, which whelps so much
Of that sad grief know to so many men.
There is no reason for this thought, for such
Corrodes the sacred minds of men.

All men should have a mind that spreads its gates
Wide open to the thoughts of all who care
To speak their feelings and to preach man's fate.
I feel that it would be the least bit fair

If we reserved our judgement for the last
Of steps, and then would set ourselves to task.
— Paul Smith
1956

NAOMI Member Updates—August 20, October 15 and December 17, 2019 from 6:30pm-8pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Get brief updates on all of NAOMI's work, plus a 'deeper dive' learning and input opportunity on one focus area each meeting. Follow NAOMI on Facebook.

Immanuel Fellowship Opportunities

Fellowship not only makes the journey enduring 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. They will resume the group discussions in the fall.

Dorcas Circle - Claudette Harring

Stay tuned for fall meeting information.

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. The circle does not meet during the summer months.

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 – education wing. If you have questions, contact Kathy Knox. Stay tuned for Fall meeting information.

Ringin' For Christ. We would love to have new members to the Bell Choir. We invite anyone interested to come and check us out in the fall. Any questions contact Joanne Diestelhorst at 715-573-7379

Free Summer Meals for Students: By texting the word "food" to the number 877-877 you will receive several locations closest to you that provide free meals along with their hours of operation. All you must do is respond to the text with your zip code. "There are a lot of programs throughout our community available to help students and their families who are dealing with food insecurities," stated Amanda Tabin, Community Impact Director with United Way. – Courtesy of WSAW.com

Ruby's Pop-Up Pantry: Ruby's Pantry is faith-based and is organized and hosted by a group of volunteers from a local church. There are no income or resident limits/requirements and the cost is a \$20 cash donation per food share. For the Wausau, WI area, the Pop-Up is at New Hope Community Church, 229375 County Road J, Wausau, WI 54403 on the 1st Tuesday of the Month. Get all the details here: rubyspantry.org.

The Immanuel News is Going Digital

We are excited to share with you the decision of the church council that our newsletter will soon be delivered in digital format starting September 1, 2019. We will still be firmly committed to print and mail the newsletter for the ILC Homebound Members.



But why? Here are just a few reasons:

1. It's cheap – A single email costs almost nothing to send, so in terms of the transfer of information, email is much less expensive.
2. It's fast – The most obvious benefit of Email is its speed. Snail-mail gets its name from its obvious drawback, but if you need to get a message to someone in the blink of an eye, email may be the most reliable way to do so.

A few copies of the printed newsletter will be available in the Narthex. Thank you. If you have questions, just let us know.

The worship assistant's calendar will be provided at the Narthex. The church calendar will be printed and placed on the bulletin board. It is accessible 24/7 online at immanualwausau.org (our website)

Jackie

✓ **July 14, 2019 at 10:45am: Adult Forum.** Pastor Niveen will be having a discussion with the congregation on "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment." This policy statement will be proposed to the ELCA churchwide assembly in August.

✓ **There will be a churchwide assembly August 5-10, 2019 in Milwaukee, WI. Pastor Niveen will be leading Bible Study on the Prophetess Miriam.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Church Council Minutes - April 16, 2019

Present: President: Bob Henning, Treasurer: Matt Munson Secretary: Linda Hulstrom, Financial Secretary: Patti Busche, Properties: Jerry Nickolai, Social Concerns: Marge Warner, Stewardship: Rick Lohr, Worship: Judy Kort. Excused: Education: Judy Nickolai, Evangelism: Judi McGill, V. President: Jamie Rice Heckendorf

1. Devotions by Patti
2. Call the meeting to order by Bob Henning at 7:43 pm
3. **Church officer reports:**
 - a. **Secretary:** March Minutes were presented, and Motion made to Accept Minutes by Patti, 2nd by Marge, Motion approved.
 - b. **Treasurer:** Matt provided Council with Profit & Loss Budget Performance report for March. He also presented the Current Position and Designated Funds report. Motion was made by Mike S to accept and hold Treasurer's report for audit, 2nd by Linda, Motion passed.
 - c. **Financial Secretary:** Patti reviewed March report. Motion was made by Judy K. to accept the report and hold for audit, 2nd by Jerry, Motion passed.
 - d. **Vice President:** reports there's a vacancy for Council Secretary and Education, at this time.
 - e. **President:** he said he will check with Church Mutual if they have a presentation on active shooter training.
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Evangelism:** Judi McGill has resigned, no report.
 - b. **Properties:** Report will be incorporated in May report from Jerry.
 - c. **Social Concerns:** Planning to do a Challenge to bring in 10 items per month for Neighbors Place. They can be food items, toiletries, or housekeeping items, any are appreciated.
 - d. **Stewardship:** Rick said Committee will meet after Annual May Meeting.
 - e. **Worship:** Judy K reported the Organ repairs are very close to be paid in full.
5. Pastor's report: She reports she will be presenting a paper at St Thomas in Minnesota. She also noted Maggie Westaby is doing well and will also be at the program. Maggie will be in Clinical's, which she doesn't get paid for. Bible Study attendance has been very good. She has been asked to give a Bible Study for the ELCA in October.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Semi- Annual Meeting, May 19th.
7. New Business:
 - a. Kitchen cleaning on May 10, 9-11:30am with lunch provided to helpers.
8. Adjourned at 8:04 pm with The Lord's Prayer.
Prayerfully submitted, Linda Hulstrom, Council Secretary, Motion by Marge, 2nd by Patti. Motion passed.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

2019 Income vs. Expenses

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds Income	Total Deposit
January	\$10,357	\$14,789		(\$4,432)	\$2,094	\$12,451
February	\$10,253	\$12,330		(\$2,077)	1442	\$11,695
March	\$15,304	\$15,018		\$286	774	\$16,078
April	\$17,384	\$13,164		\$4,221	\$1,229	\$18,613
May	\$9,368	\$12,563		(\$3,195)	\$1,645.09	\$11,013
Totals	\$62,666	\$67,704		(\$5,037)	\$7,183	\$69,850

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
Pianists: Marino Taylor & Scott Atkinson
Handbell Choir Director: Joanne Diestelhorst
Choir Director: Kay Pope
Custodian: Jill Preston
Sunday School: Judy Nickolai

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Bob Henning
Vice President: Linda Hulstrom
Treasurer: Matthew Munson
Financial Secretary: Patti Busche
Secretary: Mike Steltenpohl

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

Scheduled Meetings

8/22/19	6pm	Executive Committee
8/22/19	6:35pm	Council Meeting

Article Deadline for September 2019 Newsletter: Monday, August 19, 2019

IMMANUEL News July-August 2019

Immanuel Lutheran Church
630 Adams St
Wausau, WI 54403

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Wausau WI
Permit 6235

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church on
Facebook: @ILCWausau

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