

Immanuel News



March 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

Jesus answered "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4).

When you think of persecution of Christians, what comes to mind? You might think of non-Christians opposing Christians. When we think of Satan attacking our church, we usually think of outside evil forces. What if the evil power emerges from within the church? Yes, the forces of evil work to destroy Christians' faith from within the church. I will highlight two focal points that illustrate the work of Satan against the church on both moral and faith levels.

On the moral level, sexual abuse of children and adults by clergy in the Catholic and Southern Baptist churches have left deep wounds in the relationship between Christians and clergy. Destroying documents about clergy sexual abuse and ignoring the suffering of the victims are the work of the forces of evil

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	From the Pastor's Desk
5	2019 Income vs. Expenses and ILC Council Meeting Minutes
7	Caring Corner
7	Anniversaries & Birthdays
	Calendar and Worship Assistant Pullout

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.

continued from page 1

inside the church. By the way, we Lutherans do have sexual abuse in our churches, but on a small scale. Spiritual and physical abuse could create barriers between Christians and their church and eventually a barrier between believers and their Lord Jesus Christ.

On the faith and theological levels, the forces of evil attack the faith of the church. The significant example is the so-called "Christ Myth Theory" that denies the existence of Jesus. In the 19th century, German liberal evangelical theologian, David Friedrich Strauss was the first one to propose this theory. Many Christian scholars and clergy have adopted and developed his theory. Some of them often have taken a polemical stand toward Christianity. They promote the notion that there was never an historical Jesus, only a mythological character or "religious conception." Their teaching attracts a large audience because they use a multitude of publications and websites.

It is sad, but not surprising, to find that this heresy emerged from the church. It is evident that the forces of evil are attacking the church from within. Satan aims to destroy the church from within. He does not need to bring non-Christians to destroy it. Christians can do the work. The apostle Paul teaches "For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

I encourage you as we begin our Lenten journey, walking in the wilderness with Jesus Christ, to constantly pray for the protection of the church from all heresy and immoral behavior. Ask Jesus to send his Holy Spirit to help us transform evil into good. Ask the Holy Trinity to help us resist all evil power that denies Christ, defies God and draws us from Jesus Christ.

Jesus gives us a good example of how to fight the devil. Jesus defeated him through prayer, fasting, and meditating on the word of God. Let us follow Jesus' example. Have a blessed Lent.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

We are having Fat Sunday this year instead of Fat Tuesday. Fat Tuesday falls on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It is called Fat Tuesday because Tuesday is the last day to enjoy all the meaty and fatty delicacies you can muster up.

Pastor Niveen invites you to join her after the service on Sunday, March 3 to enjoy a delicious serving of pancakes. Are there any pancakes chefs out there? If anyone would like to volunteer to cook pancakes, please let the church office know.



Lenten Bible Study: We are going to study the Passion of Jesus Christ and cover the following topics:

March 10 - The Roman Conspiracy to Invent Jesus. Was Jesus a Roman Hoax to Trick the Jews?

March 24 - The Passion of Christ and anti-Semitism (John 19:15; Matthew 27:25)

April 14 - Did the Passion Week of Jesus last a week?



The Bible study starts at 10:45am in Emmaus Room.

Ash Wednesday at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Wednesday, March 6th is the beginning of the Lenten season. Christians all over the world will be gathering with their church communities to mark the start of this year's journey through the wilderness. You are invited to attend the Service of Worship for Ash Wednesday at **1:00 PM** in the sanctuary. We will have The Distribution of Ashes and celebrate Holy Communion.



Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service with Distribution of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Please join us at First United Methodist Church, 903 3rd St Wausau, at 7:00 PM. Our church is joining Grace United Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church in observing Ash Wednesday. Four pastors will lead the service: Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Rev. Julie Goranson, Rev. Rachel A. Wann and the host pastor Rev. Jayneann McIntosh.

Lent 2019. The theme for Lent is "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear". The scripture readings each week will explore dimensions of God's love for us and the love of Christ we share. ILC will be participating in a round robin.

Wednesday services will be at **1:00 pm** in the sanctuary and **6:00 pm** in the chapel.

March 13	Erik Olson	First English Lutheran Church
March 20	Jen Dahle	St. Stephen Lutheran Church
March 27	Phil Bogen	Trinity and St. Peter Lutheran Churches
April 3	Dan Sire	St. John Lutheran Church
April 10	Niveen Sarras	Immanuel Lutheran Church

Holy Week services will be held in the sanctuary:

- April 14 9:00 am Palm Sunday
- April 18 6:00 pm: Maundy Thursday, with washing of hands or feet and Communion
- April 19 1:30 pm: Good Friday
- April 20 6:00 pm: Easter Vigil, Communion
- April 21 9:00 am: Easter, Communion

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 4th 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



**Article Deadline for April Newsletter:
Monday, Mar. 18, 2019**

Message from Maggie ...

To my Immanuel Lutheran Family:

First, I would like to say “thank you” to everyone for both your financial support and prayers for me during my time at Luther Seminary. The transition to St. Paul has been a difficult one for me, as I often get homesick. Yet, I have been able to strive forward, through my faith and through the support that each and every one of you has provided. I have found comfort and strength by leaning into the prayers that you have said for me, and I look back to my “blessing and sending” day often, remembering the awesome group of people I have helping cheer me on. Seminary itself has been a wonderful learning experience, and I have enjoyed the classes I have taken thus far. I would also like to inform you that I received an internship position at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina Minnesota for this summer. I will specifically be interning at their Aurora clinic, which is primarily focused on individuals in transitional care and senior living. This type of internship work is required for all Seminary students in my Master’s program and it is specifically called Clinical Pastoral Education. I am looking forward to this challenge and continuing my growth through this internship program. I look forward to my trips home to Wausau and specifically the ones where I am able to visit with everyone at Immanuel on a Sunday morning!

Maggie

Message from Justice Pule written on behalf of the Lobatla Parish ...

Greetings of the New Year (2019)

It is with great pleasure to greet you brethren. I have been trying to write emails to you, but all failed. I hope you are all fine. We are still doing good as far as health is concerned. The problem is heat, as there is no rain the whole summer. We received some drops the end of January 2019. We still need more for plants to grow and grass to grow. We have started with the building of the church at Tshwaraganang congregation. I hope we shall finish somewhere in June, but I will always keep you informed.

Wishing you God’s blessings.

Yours Faithfully,

J.P.Pule



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.

Healing Service will be held on Sunday, March 31, 2019. We will have laying on of hands and anointing of oil.



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.

Dorcas Circle - Claudette Harring

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 you 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.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
2019 Income vs Expenses**

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference
January	\$10,357	\$14,789		(\$4,432)
February				\$0
March				\$0
April				\$0
May				\$0
June				\$0
July				\$0
August				\$0
September				\$0
October				\$0
November				\$0
December				\$0
Totals	\$10,357.00	\$14,788.88		(\$4,432)

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting -
Jan 8, 2019**

Present: Pres: Bob Henning, VP: Jamie Rice-Heckendorf, Treas: Matt Munson, Secretary: Linda Hulstrom, Financial Secretary: Patti Busche, Education: Judy Nickolai, Properties: Jerry Nickolai, Stewardship: Rick Lohr, Worship: Judy Kort, Pastor Niveen Sarras Excused; Evangelism: Judi McGill, Social Concerns: Marge Warner.

1. Devotions: Jamie
2. Call Meeting to order: Bob
3. Church Officers reports:
 - a. Secretary report for Dec was approved with a Motion by Patti, and 2nd by Matt, Motion passed.
 - b. Treasurer's report for Dec for Current & Designated Funds, it was noted that \$5000. of Memorial Fund was used for principal on Hamilton Lot loan, from Max Anderson Memorial. Motion made to accept Treasurer reports & hold for Audit by Judy Nickolai, 2nd by Jamie, Motion approved.
 - c. Financial Secretary for Dec given by Patti noted the ELCA World Hunger donation was from Women of the Church for \$100. Motion to accept report and hold for Audit by Rick, 2nd by Judy Kort, Motion accepted.
 - d. Vice President: Jamie stated that
 - 1.) Jill Preston will be taking on Custodian position soon.
 - 2.) Jackie will soon be hired directly at same rate of pay but with paid holidays, no paid vacation days are included.
 - 3.) We still have church space for rent.
 - e. President reported he has found 3 people for the Audit Committee.

Committee Reports:

- a. Education: Judy stated Sunday school will be every Sunday.
- b. Evangelism, No report
- c. Properties: Jerry reports: Installed HDMI transmitter/receiver for service presentation system. Repair office hallway lighting, repair Koinonia light and ballast, reinstall insulation on boiler water circulations pipes in Koinonia Ceiling, research vendor for missing pipe insulation (Grainger: \$8:50 for 3-foot length similar to existing.) This is the cause of the Koinonia and the room above being very warm, repair lighting in fellowship hall. Repair

lighting replacement tubes and ballasts in fish sandwich, repair motor bracket on boiler circulation pump. (Thank you, Al Spoehr for doing the welding), repair Secretary's computer, change and document door code change procedure, research disposal of fluorescent tubes (Hazardous materials, 50 cents a tube at Ringle Landfill), research LED replacements for Fluorescent tubes: 48" type-b, 120V, non-ballast, single end bypass. \$4.25 ea, or \$3.99 ea in 25 pack Art Dellenbach quoted \$9 ea., with \$2 rebate.

Finished repair on the urinal flush valve.

Properties committee notifications: Jerry Nickolai, Dan and Holly Westaby

The following items were agreed to by the properties committee.

- 1) Use Ringle Landfill for Fluorescent bulb disposal as required
- 2) Purchase pipe insulation for the heating system from Grainger as needed.
- 3) Begin upgrade of fluorescent tube lighting with LED tubes as needed.

d. Social Concerns, No report

e. Stewardship: Rick reports Ben Harring, Jim Stolen, Tom McDonnell and Wayne Kallio will be on his Committee. They will be meeting in May, with a Pledge plan to start in August to accommodate for end of year budget.

f. Worship: Judy K reported plan for Lent services at 1:00 & 6:00 pm. Ash Wednesday evening will be an Ecumenical service host by ILC, to include members of United Methodist, Grace UCC and First Presbyterian. Also, she's looking at options for adding a 11am Communion service on the First Sunday of the month, to accommodate those having problems attending the 9 am service. Motion was made by Jamie to start the 11:00 am service in May, with no Adult

Bible Study on that Sunday. We will try this for 1 year to see if attendance is enough to continue the extra service. Patti 2nd Motion, motion accepted.

5. Pastor's report; please attend Shabot service if possible, information is in Bulletin. Thursday our Bishop will be coming here and we will host a light lunch. Pastor was notified her VISA was extended for another 2 years. Please pray for Phyllis Hustedt who is in hospital.

6. Old Business:

- a. 2019 Budget
- b. Seeds for Growth put on hold for future discussion

7. New Business

- a. Crossways Camping Ministries, Motion by Jamie to participate, 2nd by Judy K, discussion will be added to Semi-Annual May Meeting.
- b. Refinanced Lot loan of \$15,548.64 with monthly payments of \$125.24 at interest rate of 5.25% on a 3 year lock, amortized for 15 years. Linda also reported that she will see that the \$895. remainder in Lot loan account will be put on the principal only, to bring it down before the end of Feb. Going forward any amount in excess of \$400. per month will also be applied to principal to expedite payoff.
- c. Audit Committee; Maria Wierzba, Mary McDonnell and Joy Karnitz. Motion to accept these 3 for Committee by Jerry, 2nd by Matt, Motion passed.

8. Good of the Order

- a. Motion by Rick, 2nd by Jerry to prepare Budget as agreed, Motion passed.
- b. ByLaws will be reviewed by Bob Reinertson, Jamie Rice-Heckendorf and Linda Hulstrom.
9. Adjourned at 9:08 pm

Prayerfully submitted,
Linda Hulstrom
Council Secretary

These Minutes were approved as corrected on 2/19/19 with Motion by Patti and 2nd by Judi M.

A Date for Your Calendar. Please reserve Monday, April 1st on your calendar- no fooling! On that day Immanuel will be privileged to host a **Pilgrimage to Peace panel presentation by the Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP).**

Wausau is one of three sites on their national spring tour. The four panel members will be in the Wausau area April 1-3 and will be presenting to a variety of audiences. During the presentations, they will discuss realities affecting the Palestinian refugee community and the importance of advocating for human rights in Israel, the Palestinian Territories and with refugees throughout the Middle East. The occupation of the Palestinian territories impacts people living on all sides of the conflict, including both Israelis and Palestinians. The panel features Suzann Mollner, Executive Director of Beirut and Beyond, a Palestinian refugee support organization, and Obada Shtaya, formerly of One Voice Movement, now with Zimam, empowering young Palestinian leaders. CMEP Outreach Director, Sara Burbach and Development Director, Alison Glick complete the panel.

The presentation will begin at 6:30 pm. Following the presentation and discussion, a reception will be held in the Gathering Room. If there are individuals from Immanuel who might like to welcome those attending, assist with the reception or host the panel members for dinner prior to the presentation, please call and talk with Claudette Harring. Your interest is encouraged and your involvement will be welcomed and appreciated.

Welcome Strong Bones. Sandy Popko teaches an exercise class called Strong Bones. This class is for the elderly. She will be utilizing the 1st floor day care room here at ILC. Sandy started the class at the Health Care Center and then went to Atrium Post-Acute Care until they closed a few weeks ago. Sandy said, "Immanuel Lutheran Church was so kind and welcomed me and the program with open arms." Sandy is certified to teach. The program offers more than just exercise. People come to socialize and have a good time. Couples also attend. The benefits of the Strong Bones Program are: 1) Increased muscle mass and strength. 2) Improves bone density, reduces the risk of osteoporosis and related fractures. 3) Reduces risk of diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, depression and obesity. 4) Improves balance. 5) Improves self-confidence, sleep and vitality. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30am-11:30am. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sandy at (715) 675-2045.

ELCA launches collaboration with Blessed Tomorrow

CHICAGO – In its commitment to pursuing wholeness for creation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is pleased to announce collaboration with ecoAmerica and its Blessed Tomorrow program, which helps faith-based organizations elevate their leadership on the moral, religious and justice issues surrounding climate change.

This ELCA's commitment to caring for creation is expressed through individual and community action, worship, learning, moral deliberation and advocacy. The collaboration with Blessed Tomorrow underscores this church's commitment to raising awareness of climate change and taking action to mitigate its impact. Read more: <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7958>

ELCA Disaster Response – Venezuelan Refugee Crisis. The number of people who continue to leave Venezuela to escape violence and lack of food and medicine is increasing. The United Nations reports that 2.3 million Venezuelan live outside the country. While not all are refugees, it is evident that a significant number are in need of International protection. If you would like to donate to alleviate their suffering, please consider donating to the ELCA Disaster Response by writing a check to ILC and write in the memo, Venezuela-ELCA Disaster Response. Thank you.

Additional information can be found here: <https://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/venezuelan-refugee-crisis/>

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

Bill & JoAnne Cerny

3201 N. 13th Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Dale & Ann Kurth

2806 Polzer Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

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)



Happy Birthday

March

03/01	Jessi Case	03/17	Peggy Novak
03/01	Jessica Case	03/18	Don Dern
03/03	Deborah Case	03/18	Marilyn Feindt
03/03	LuAnn Sanders	03/19	Suzanne Lewitzke
03/04	Julie Kurth	03/21	Barb West
03/04	Kari Solomonson	03/22	Dale Kurth
03/05	Sam Reinertson	03/22	Beverly Meyer
03/08	Joan Bergeth	03/22	Jerry Nickolai
03/08	Justin Nickolai	03/23	Barb Wipfli
03/10	Judi McGill	03/28	Matthew Munson
03/11	Karen Rajek	03/28	Brandon Riehle
03/12	Andrew Kallio	03/28	Lori Strodthoff
03/12	Alex Krueger	03/31	Rick Lohr
03/12	Ruth Riehle		
03/15	Jeffrey Klein		
03/16	Judith Beckman		

Anniversary Wishes to the Special Couples

The following couples are celebrating their
Wedding Anniversary

March

03/06	Franklin & Connie Lewitzke	32 years
03/06	Paul & Jane Reilly Smith	20 years

Happy Anniversary

Immanuel Lutheran Church
630 Adams St
Wausau, WI 54403

IMMANUEL News - March 2019

NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
Wausau WI
Permit 6235

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Immanuel Lutheran Church
immanuelwausau.org

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

3/19/19 6:00 pm Executive Committee
3/19/19 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