

# Immanuel News



**October 2019**

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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.

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## From the Pastor's Desk

*"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised"* (Hebrews 10:36).

My dear beloved children of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you.

Autumn has just arrived. Nature is changing its colors. Our eyes enjoy looking at the red and gold of the trees. Autumn has its unique beauty. The falling of leaves reminds me of the beauty of our liturgical celebrations like Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday and our Thanksgiving service. Autumn might remind us of the death of old leaves and the promise of new leaves. Autumn also reflects our changing culture, changing values and societal morals. Our church is part of this

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changing culture. Our church today is different than 50 years ago. When Autumn arrives, we need to look back and better understand the way the Holy Spirit leads us.

There are a lot of unwelcomed changes in our world. Our human nature does not easily welcome change. Our church is aging, and we do not have enough volunteers to carry on our ministry. On top of that this digital age has shaped our church and has made many of us uncomfortable. Despite changes in our culture and church, we persevere in faith. We let go and let God provide what we need for our ministry. We move forward, not retreating to a time when the church was packed with worshipers, Sunday school was full of kids and an abundance of volunteers. We do our best to keep the focus on our mission. Now Immanuel Lutheran Church is serving Jesus Christ in a new way. We have added a new worship service to accommodate those who are unable to attend the early service on Sunday. The choir has decided not to dissolve and will continue to praise the Lord. I am grateful to Judy Kort, who graciously has stepped in to lead our choir. The Stewardship committee has been working hard on their forthcoming fall stewardship emphases. This committee is creating in our church a new Spirit: the spirit of generosity, not scarcity. The altar guild is moving forward in their ministry. They are exploring a new way to celebrate Holy Communion. Their dedication to our ministry is very significant.

We know that Autumn is a time of transition and change, but we believe that Jesus does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer rightly said:

*“By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,  
and confidently waiting come what may,  
we know that God is with us night and morning,*

*and never fails to greet us each new day.”*

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D

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## **Church Schedule**

**Worship Service at 9:00 am on Sunday  
and 11:am on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 pad that is in each pew when you are taking communion. This information is entered into the office computer.



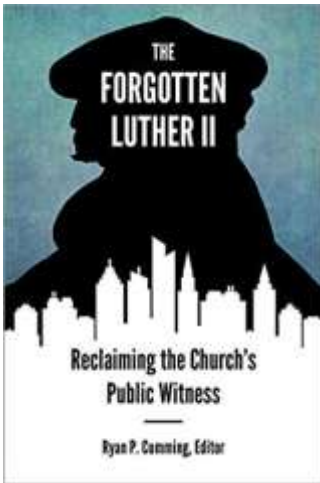
*TV Worship Services : Charter Cable Channel 980 5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15 am Thursday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran)*



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](mailto:nkalesto@gmail.com)

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## Adult Forum



In this critical time in history, this volume argues that what is urgently needed is a cogent, clear, biblically based and theologically grounded rationale for the manner in which the church speaks and acts in the political arena. Lured at times into other-worldly quietism because of the pressure of historical events or distorted through a rigid understanding of the two kingdoms, the church of the Reformation has at times been silent in addressing the political factors that create and contribute to hunger, injustice, and war. This book looks carefully at the public witness of Martin Luther and its meaning for preaching, teaching, and carrying out public ministry today.

Luther's conviction was that the government is responsible to God for containing evil and maintaining peace and good order, and for ensuring that no person is hungry or in want.

The book asks critical questions: When should the church support the

state's agenda? When should it resist? What are the options for critical but constructive cooperation?

You are encouraged to purchase the book for \$16.99 from <https://fortresspress.com/forgottenlutherii>

A portion of the proceeds will support the ongoing work off ELCA Advocacy through World Hunger.

The schedule and topics are the following:

- **October 13: Reclaiming Luther's Public Witness on Church, State, and War.**
- **October 27: Lutheran Faith: Rebellion and Responsibility.**
- **November 17: Reclaiming the Empowerment of Ordinary People.**
- **November 24: God's Word Spoken Publicly, Boldly, and Honestly.**

All the Adult Forums will take place at Emmaus room on Sundays at 10:45am.

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## **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 Harring**

Meets at 9am on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Sarah Circle will meet in the Koinonia at 1 PM, Thursday, September 26th. Vonnie Solomonson will be the hostess.

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

**Ringing 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.

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## **Mark Your Calendars!**

**October 6, 2019:** Zion Lutheran Church is pleased to present concert organist Isabel Demers on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is Organ Professor and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University in Texas. As an added feature of this concert, her playing will be projected on a large screen in the chancel. It will be a wonderful opportunity to view a virtuoso organist in action!

**October 8, 2019:** 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Soup & Suds Gathering. Come join us for soup and soap making. More information to follow.

**October 16, 2019:** Altar Guild Meeting at 1:00pm

**October 21, 2019:** Deadline for submitting items to be published in the November 2019 Newsletter.

**October 24, 2019:** 5:30pm Executive Committee Meeting / 6:05pm Council Meeting.

**October 26th, 2019: Strengthening Families; Strengthening Lives Event.** On Saturday evening, October 26th, 2019 Lutheran Counseling & Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS) will be hosting a fundraising gala **“Strengthening Lives; Strengthening Families”** to foster awareness, education and hope in the vital services it provides across the state. Additional details are on the bulletin board.

**October 27, 2019:** Reformation Sunday. Please wear **red**.

**November 2, 2019:** Women of the ELCA Convention. The biennial convention of the East Central Synod WI Women of the ELCA will be held Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Howard. A flyer will be posted on the bulletin board with all the details.

**November 3, 2019:** All Saints Sunday.

**November 10, 2019:** Honor Veterans Service.

**November 24, 2019:** Deadline for Faith in Action of Marathon County’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas/Holiday Care Drive donations. The list of items needed are on the bulletin board. FIA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist people 60+ in Marathon County to retain their independence by providing supportive services through a network of volunteers. They provide medical and grocery shopping transportation, safety bar installation and food delivery from the food pantry at no charge. Donations of items and dollars are appreciated. For more information call 715-848-8783.

**November 24, 2019:** Healing Service.

**November 27, 2019:** ILC will host the annual Thanksgiving Eve Service. More information will follow.

**November 28, 2019:** Church Closed – Thanksgiving Day.

**December 1, 2019:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent.

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

**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 makes a wonderful gift to give someone also!

## Choir

**Music is an outburst of the soul.** Choir practice is starting on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 8:15am with a familiar song, Spirit of Praise. Judy Kort is our new choir director. Thank you so much, Judy. Please come sing with us. All are welcome! We sing, we laugh, we praise the Lord and enjoy each other's fellowship!



**Confirmation class** is a two-year program with the expectation of confirming students on the day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 23, 2021. We have so far three students. This year, we will be gathering together students from Pilgrim, Immanuel and St. Stephen Lutheran Churches. Vicar Will, Pastor Jenn and I are excited at the prospect of exploring the Bible and God's story with you. Our classes this year will take place in the youth room at St. Stephen, which is in the basement. For classes this year, each student will be expected to bring their Bible and a journal or notebook to assist them with writing their faith statements this year. Please talk to Pastor Niveen if you have any questions.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**The Immanuel Men's Club**, the first of its kind in Wausau, was organized in 1903. By the end of the year it had 40 members. The club met in homes on Sunday afternoons



twice a month. Programs consisted of talks, music and debates “which aroused heated discussions at times.” Regular dues were collected. Women were invited and usually attended. In 1933 the membership was at 45. Dues were discontinued at that time, however, due to “these distressed times.” Newly confirmed boys were also invited to attend.

**NAOMI Member Updates**—October 15 and 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.

**Birthdays**  
**Happy Birthday from your ILC family!**

**October 2019**

Anna Tessmer	10/02	Jeanette Petterson	10/11
Norm Winterhoff	10/03	Wendy Christopherson	10/13
Margaret Johnson	10/04	Judy Kort	10/14
Missy Reilly	10/04	Joyce Lohrey	10/23
Lisa Bergeth	10/05	Dwala Smail	10/23
Jorden Nickolai	10/08	Bob Doede	10/30
Lilly Bong	10/09	Sue Doede	10/31
Joanne Diestelhorst	10/09	Layne Heffner	10/31
Kristin Sibell	10/09		

**Anniversary Wishes to these Special Couples**

The following couples are celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

Gary & Patti Busche	37 years	10/01
Mike & Jamie Rice-Heckendorf	13 years	10/07
Scott & Barb Wipfli	41 years	10/21
Mike & Margy Mayer	46 years	10/28

# Message from the Stewardship Committee

Members of the Immanuel family,

With Gratitude and Generosity Our Gifts Provide Hope, Peace and Meaning in the Midst of Confusing times.

- Today's world is beset by anger, conflict and disconnection.
- As people of God we experience the currents of change that swirl around us.

## **Where do we turn for comfort and stability?**

- Immanuel Lutheran is an anchor of stability in our lives.
- God's love for us demonstrated through Jesus Christ brings perspective as we navigate the our constantly changing world.

## **Stewardship is our way of serving God.**

- Our gifts enable Immanuel congregation to be a beacon of faith, hope and peace.
- Now is the time for us to reflect on our role in maintaining Immanuel's vitality in living God's Word.

**We press on as God's church, pointing to the One who brings hope, peace and meaning to our lives.**

- To accomplish this, we are asking you to fill out your gift giving card for the year 2020.
- We hope you will pray about your role in congregational life.
- Gift giving cards will be available in the narthex on October 20th, 27th and November 3rd.
- Gifting Sunday will be on November 17th.

Your Stewardship Committee:

*Tom McDonell, Ben Haring, Rick Lohr, Jim Stolen and Wayne Kallio*

# 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><b>Bell Tower Residence</b> 1500 O’Day St Merrill, WI 54452 ▶ <b>Barb Peterson</b>, Rm 313 ▶ <b>Carol Hettinga</b>, Rm 307</p> <p><b>Our House Assisted Living</b> 220 West Campus Drive Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ <b>Joan Lind</b>, Rm 7</p> <p><b>Riverview Terrace</b> 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ <b>Joyce Lohrey</b>, #207</p> <p><b>Colonial Manor</b> 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ <b>Norm Winterhoff</b></p>	<p><b>Primrose Retirement Community</b> 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ <b>Thelma Bursik</b>, Apt #101</p> <p><b>Heritage House of Portage</b> 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901 ▶ <b>Esther Osterby</b>, #43</p>	<p><b>Glen &amp; Carolyn Viergutz</b> N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022</p> <p><b>Pat Stricker</b> 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403</p> <p><b>Judy Blanchfield</b> 1805 Mathie Street Wausau, WI 54403</p> <p><b>Jeanette Petterson</b> 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474</p> <p><b>Dale &amp; Ann Kurth</b> 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401</p> <p><b>Faye Schwarm</b> 231706 Guinness Rd Wausau, WI 54403</p>



## Immanuel Lutheran Church 2019 Income vs Expenses

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Difference	Spec Funds	Total Deposit
				Income	
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			\$0		
October			\$0		
November			\$0		
December			\$0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$97,963.51</b>	<b>\$104,781.66</b>	<b>(\$6,818)</b>	<b>\$10,423</b>	<b>\$108,387</b>

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### Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - Thursday August 22, 2019

Members present: President Bob Henning, Vice-President Linda Hulstrom, Financial Secretary Patti Busche, Secretary Mike Steltenpohl, Evangelism Janci Treutel, Stewardship Rick Lohr, Worship Judy Kort.

Members absent: Pastor Niveen Sarras, Matt Munson, Judy Nickolai, Jerry Nickolai

1. The meeting was called to order by Bob Henning at 6:10 pm.
2. Devotions were led by Bob Henning
3. Church officer reports
  - a. Secretary report - The June secretary report was previously e-mailed to all council members and a motion was made by Janci to accept the minutes as printed. Second was made by Patti. Motion passed.

b. Treasurer report - The Income & Expense report and the Current Position and Designated Funds report for July was presented. The July and YTD Profit & Loss Budget Performance was also presented. A motion was made by Patti to accept and hold the treasurers report for audit. Second was made by Mike. Motion passed.

c. Financial secretary report - Patti submitted the financial secretary report for review. A motion was made by Rick to accept and hold the financial secretary report for audit. Second was made by Judy K. Motion passed.

d. Vice-President report - Jackie will be attending a workshop in Oshkosh Sept 16-17 for parish office workers themed "Church Communications in the 21st Century".

e. President report - Bob reviewed the mailing list and category counts including members, inactive members, nonmembers, sister church, and transfers.

#### 4. Committee reports

a. Education - no report this month

b. Evangelism - We will be having a Songfest Sunday on Sept 22nd. The first half of the service will be singing and the second half will be an abbreviated service. Popcorn purchased for "Popping On By" is being sent to visitors and families in the area with a note from our congregation.

c. Properties - no report this month

d. Social Concerns - The community dinner will be on Sunday August 25th at 4:00pm serving picnic fare.

e. Stewardship - This year's theme will be "With gratitude and generosity our gifts provide hope, peace and meaning in the midst of chaos. Packets will be available at church on Oct 20th, Oct 27th, and Nov 3rd.

f. Worship - Judy reported that we are properly staffed for organists and pianists. Scott and Karen will be playing piano and Judy and Dan will be playing the organ.

5. Pastor's report - no report this month.

#### 6. Unfinished Business

a. The Crossways Camping Ministries fundraiser has now reached approximately \$3,300 so far with more money still coming in.

b. We still need to consider policies for the following items:  
- selling church owned and donated items  
- screening potential new members  
- same sex members or employees

## 7. New Business

a. We were requested to find members to provide housing for visitors from our sister congregation Lobatia Parish for 2-3 day segments during June 17th - June 30th. Volunteers would need to provide food, shelter and transportation.

## 8. Round Table Discussion

a. Janci noted that Greater Wausau Christian Services is in need of musicians to assist pastors with worship at assisted living facilities by playing piano or guitar.

b. Janice also noted that due to structural issues at the Marathon County jail - pastoral services have been suspended until repairs are completed.

c. Future council dates will be Sept 26th and Oct 24th. Executive committee at 5:30pm and council meeting at 6:05pm.

9. A motion was made by Judy K to adjourn. Second was made by Janci. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

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

11. A motion was made by Linda to adjourn. Second by Mike. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm. Closing devotion was held by members holding hands in a circle while saying the Lord's Prayer.

